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Signed A M Brewer.

Dated 27 October 2004

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THE PATENT OFFICE
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20 DEC 2003
NEWPORT

Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)

The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
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1. Your reference 101336-1

2. Patent application number *(The Patent Office will fill in this part)* 20 DEC 2003 0329572.2

230EC03 E861205-1 D02934
P01/7700 0.00-0329572.2 NONE

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant *(underline all surnames)*

AstraZeneca AB
SE-151 85 Sodertalje
Sweden

Patents ADP number *(if you know it)* 07892448003

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation Sweden

4. Title of the invention

AMIDE DERIVATIVES

5. Name of your agent *(if you have one)* Brian Steele TAIT

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent *(including the postcode)*

AstraZeneca
Global Intellectual Property
PO Box 272
Mereside, Alderley Park
Macclesfield,
Cheshire SK10 4GR

Patents ADP number *(if you know it)* 08179707001

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and *(if you know it)* the or each application number	Country	Priority application number *(if you know it)*	Date of filing *(day / month / year)*

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application	Number of earlier application	Date of filing *(day / month / year)*

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? *(Answer 'Yes' if:*

a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
See note (d))

Patents Form 1/77

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form. Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form	
Description	47
Claim(s)	4
Abstract	
Drawing(s)	

SN

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents	
Translations of priority documents	
Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent *(Patents Form 7/77)*	
Request for preliminary examination and search *(Patents Form 9/77)*	
Request for substantive examination *(Patents Form 10/77)*	
Any other documents *(please specify)*	

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature [signature] Date 19.12.03

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

Jennifer Bennett - 01625 230148

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Notes

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AMIDE DERIVATIVES

This invention relates to amide derivatives, or pharmaceutically-acceptable salts thereof which are useful as inhibitors of cytokine mediated disease. The invention also relates to processes for the manufacture of said amide derivatives, to pharmaceutical compositions containing said amide derivatives and to their use in therapeutic methods, for example by virtue of inhibition of cytokine mediated disease.

The amide derivatives disclosed in the present invention are inhibitors of the production of cytokines such as Tumour Necrosis Factor (hereinafter TNF), for example TNFα, and various members of the interleukin (hereinafter IL) family, for example IL-1, IL-6 and IL-8. Accordingly the amide derivatives of the invention will be useful in the treatment of diseases or medical conditions in which excessive production of cytokines occurs, for example excessive production of TNFα or IL-1. It is known that cytokines are produced by a wide variety of cells such as monocytes and macrophages and that they give rise to a variety of physiological effects which are believed to be important in disease or medical conditions such as inflammation and immunoregulation. For example, TNFα and IL-1 have been implicated in the cell signalling cascade which is believed to contribute to the pathology of disease states such as inflammatory and allergic diseases and cytokine-induced toxicity. It is also known that, in certain cellular systems, TNFα production precedes and mediates the production of other cytokines such as IL-1.

Abnormal levels of cytokines have also been implicated in, for example, the production of physiologically-active eicosanoids such as the prostaglandins and leukotrienes, the stimulation of the release of proteolytic enzymes such as collagenase, the activation of the immune system, for example by stimulation of T-helper cells, the activation of osteoclast activity leading to the resorption of calcium, the stimulation of the release of proteoglycans from, for example, cartilage, the stimulation of cell proliferation and to angiogenesis.

Cytokines are also believed to be implicated in the production and development of disease states such as inflammatory and allergic diseases, for example inflammation of the joints (especially rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis and gout), inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract (especially inflammatory bowel disease, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease and gastritis), skin disease (especially psoriasis, eczema and dermatitis) and respiratory disease (especially asthma, bronchitis, allergic rhinitis, chronic obstructive

pulmonary disease and adult respiratory distress syndrome), and in the production and development of various cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disorders such as congestive heart failure, acute heart failure, myocardial infarction, the formation of atherosclerotic plaques, hypertension, platelet aggregation, angina, stroke, reperfusion injury, vascular injury including restenosis and peripheral vascular disease, and, for example, various disorders of bone metabolism such as osteoporosis (including senile and postmenopausal osteoporosis), Paget's disease, bone metastases, hypercalcaemia, hyperparathyroidism, osteosclerosis, osteoperosis and periodontitis, and the abnormal changes in bone metabolism which may accompany rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis. Excessive cytokine production has also been implicated in mediating certain complications of bacterial, fungal and/or viral infections such as endotoxic shock, septic shock and toxic shock syndrome and in mediating certain complications of CNS surgery or injury such as neurotrauma and ischaemic stroke. Excessive cytokine production has also been implicated in mediating or exacerbating the development of diseases involving cartilage or muscle resorption, pulmonary fibrosis, cirrhosis, renal fibrosis, the cachexia found in certain chronic diseases such as malignant disease and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, tumour invasiveness and tumour metastasis and multiple sclerosis. Excessive cytokine production has also been implicated in pain.

Evidence of the central role played by TNFα in the cell signalling cascade which gives rise to rheumatoid arthritis is provided by the efficacy in clinical studies of antibodies of TNFα (The Lancet, 1994, 344, 1125 and British Journal of Rheumatology, 1995, 34, 334).

Thus cytokines such as TNFα and IL-1 are believed to be important mediators of a considerable range of diseases and medical conditions. Accordingly it is expected that inhibition of the production of and/or effects of these cytokines will be of benefit in the prophylaxis, control or treatment of such diseases and medical conditions.

Without wishing to imply that the amide derivatives disclosed in the present invention possesses pharmacological activity only by virtue of an effect on a single biological process, it is believed that the amide derivatives inhibit the effects of cytokines by virtue of inhibition of the enzyme p38 kinase. p38 kinase, otherwise known as cytokine suppressive binding protein (hereinafter CSBP) and reactivating kinase (hereinafter RK), is a member of the mitogen-activated protein (hereinafter MAP) kinase family of enzymes which is known to be activated by physiological stress such as that induced by ionising radiation, cytotoxic agents, and toxins,

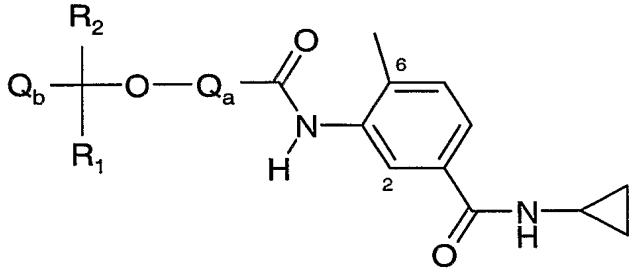
for example endotoxins such as bacterial lipopolysaccharide, and by a variety of agents such as the cytokines, for example TNFα and IL-1. It is known that p38 kinase phosphorylates certain intracellular proteins which are involved in the cascade of enzymatic steps which leads to the biosynthesis and excretion of cytokines such as TNFα and IL-1. Known inhibitors of p38 kinase have been reviewed in Exp. Opin. Ther. Patents, 2000, 10(1), 25-37. p38 kinase is known to exist in isoforms identified as p38α and p38β.

The amide derivatives disclosed in the present invention are inhibitors of the production of cytokines such as TNF, in particular of TNFα, and various interleukins, in particular IL-1.

It is known from the International Patent Application WO 00/07980 that certain amide derivatives are inhibitors of the production of cytokines such as TNF, and various interleukins. One of the disclosed compounds is N-cyclobutyl-3-(3,4-dimethoxybenzamido)-4-methylbenzamide.

There is no disclosure in this document of an amide derivative which bears a cyclopropylaminocarbonyl substituent at the 3-position of the central 6-methylphenyl core. We have now found that such compounds possess potent cytokine inhibitory activity.

According to the present invention there is provided a compound of the Formula I



I

wherein

Q_a is phenyl or heteroaryl, and Q_a may optionally bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, (1-6C)alkyl, (2-6C)alkenyl, (2-6C)alkynyl, (1-6C)alkoxy, (1-6C)alkylamino, di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino and (1-6C)alkoxycarbonyl;

R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from hydrogen, (1-6C)alkyl, (2-6C)alkenyl and (2-6C)alkynyl;

Q_b is phenyl, heteroaryl or heterocyclyl, and Q_b may optionally bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, (1-6C)alkyl, (2-6C)alkenyl, (2-6C)alkynyl,

(3-6C)cycloalkyl, (3-6C)cycloalkyl-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkoxy, (3-6C)cycloalkoxy, (3-6C)cycloalkyl-(1-6C)alkoxy, carboxy, (1-6C)alkoxycarbonyl, N-(1-6C)alkylcarbamoyl, N,N-di-[(1-6C)alkyl]carbamoyl, (2-6C)alkanoyl, amino, (1-6C)alkylamino, di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino, halogeno-(1-6C)alkyl, hydroxy-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkoxy-(1-6C)alkyl, cyano-(1-6C)alkyl, amino-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkylamino-(1-6C)alkyl, di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkylthio, (1-6C)alkylsulphinyl, (1-6C)alkylsulphonyl, aminosulphonyl, N-(1-6C)alkylsulphamoyl, N,N-di-[(1-6C)alkyl]sulphamoyl and (3-6C)cycloalkylsulphonyl;

and wherein any of the substituents on Q_a or Q_b defined hereinbefore which comprise a CH_2 group which is attached to 2 carbon atoms or a CH_3 group which is attached to a carbon atom may optionally bear on each said CH_2 or CH_3 group one or more substituents selected from hydroxy, cyano, amino, (1-6C)alkyl , (1-6C)alkoxy, (1-6C)alkylamino and di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

In this specification, the term (1-6C)alkyl includes straight-chain and branched-chain alkyl groups such as propyl, isopropyl and tert-butyl. References to individual alkyl groups such as "propyl" are specific for the straight-chain version only, references to individual branched-chain alkyl groups such as "isopropyl" are specific for the branched-chain version only. In this specification, the term (3-6C)cycloalkoxy includes cyclopropyloxy, cyclobutyloxy, cyclopentyloxy and cyclohexyloxy. References to individual cycloalkyl groups such as "cyclopentyl" are specific for that 5-membered ring only.

It is to be understood that, insofar as certain of the compounds of Formula I defined above may exist in optically active or racemic forms by virtue of one or more asymmetric carbon atoms, the invention includes in its definition any such optically active or racemic form which possesses the property of inhibiting cytokines, in particular TNF. The synthesis of optically active forms may be carried out by standard techniques of organic chemistry well known in the art, for example by synthesis from optically active starting materials or by resolution of a racemic form. Similarly, inhibitory properties against TNF may be evaluated using the standard laboratory techniques referred to hereinafter.

Suitable values for the generic radicals referred to above include those set out below.

A suitable value for Q_a or Q_b when it is heteroaryl is, for example, an aromatic 5- or 6-membered monocyclic ring, a 9- or 10-membered bicyclic ring or a 13- or 14-membered

tricyclic ring each with up to five ring heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur, for example furyl, pyrrolyl, thienyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyridyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, 1,3,5-triazenyl, benzofuranyl, indolyl, benzothienyl, benzoxazolyl, benzimidazolyl, benzothiazolyl, indazolyl, benzofurazanyl, quinolyl, isoquinolyl, quinazolinyl, quinoxalinyl, cinnolinyl, naphthyridinyl, carbazolyl, dibenzofuranyl, dibenzothiophenyl, S,S-dioxodibenzothiophenyl, xanthenyl, dibenzo-1,4-dioxinyl, phenoxathiinyl, phenoxazinyl, dibenzothiinyl, phenothiazinyl, thianthrenyl, benzofuropyridyl, pyridoindolyl, acridinyl or phenanthridinyl, preferably furyl, thienyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, pyrido[1,2-a]imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, isothiazolyl, pyridyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl or pyrazinyl, more preferably furyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrido [1,2-a]imidazolyl, thiadiazolyl or pyridyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl or pyrazinyl.

A suitable value for Q_b when it is heterocyclyl is, for example, a non-aromatic saturated or partially saturated 3- to 10-membered monocyclic or bicyclic ring or a 5- to 7-membered monocyclic ring each with up to five heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur, for example oxiranyl, oxetanyl, azetidinyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, tetrahydropyranyl, pyrrolinyl, pyrrolidinyl, imidazolinyl, imidazolidinyl, pyrazolinyl, pyrazolidinyl, 1,1-dioxidoisothiazolidinyl, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, tetrahydro-1,4-thiazinyl, 1,1-dioxotetrahydro-1,4-thiazinyl, piperidinyl, homopiperidinyl, piperazinyl, homopiperazinyl, dihydropyridinyl, tetrahydropyridinyl, dihydropyrimidinyl or tetrahydropyrimidinyl or benzo derivatives thereof such as 2,3-dihydrobenzofuranyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzothienyl, indolinyl, isoindolinyl, chromanyl and isochromanyl, preferably azetidin-1-yl, 3-pyrrolin-1-yl, pyrrolidin-1-yl, pyrrolidin-2-yl, 1,1-dioxidoisothiazolidin-2-yl, morpholino, 1,1-dioxotetrahydro-4H-1,4-thiazin-4-yl, piperidin-3-yl, piperidin-4-yl, homopiperidin-1-yl, piperidino, piperazin-1-yl or homopiperazin-1-yl. A suitable value for such a group which bears 1 or 2 oxo or thioxo substituents is, for example, 2-oxopyrrolidinyl, 2-thioxopyrrolidinyl, 2-oxoimidazolidinyl, 2-thioxoimidazolidinyl, 2-oxopiperidinyl, 2,5-dioxopyrrolidinyl, 2,5-dioxoimidazolidinyl or 2,6-dioxopiperidinyl.

Suitable values for various substituents on Q_a or Q_b or for R_1 and R_2 include:-

for halogeno:	fluoro, chloro, bromo and iodo;
for (1-6C)alkyl:	methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl and tert-butyl;
for (2-6C)alkenyl:	vinyl and allyl;

for (2-6C)alkynyl:	ethynyl and 2-propynyl;
for (1-6C)alkoxy:	methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy and butoxy;
for (1-6C)alkoxycarbonyl:	methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, propoxycarbonyl and tert-butoxycarbonyl;
for N-(1-6C)alkylcarbamoyl:	N-methylcarbamoyl, N-ethylcarbamoyl and N-propylcarbamoyl;
for N,N-di-[(1-6C)alkyl]carbamoyl:	N,N-dimethylcarbamoyl, N-ethyl-N-methylcarbamoyl and N,N-diethylcarbamoyl;
for (2-6C)alkanoyl:	acetyl and propionyl;
for (1-6C)alkylamino:	methylamino, ethylamino and propylamino;
for di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino:	dimethylamino, diethylamino and N-ethyl-N-methylamino;
for halogeno-(1-6C)alkyl:	fluoromethyl, chloromethyl, bromomethyl, difluoromethyl, dichloromethyl, dibromomethyl, 2-fluoroethyl, 2-chloroethyl and 2-bromoethyl;
for hydroxy-(1-6C)alkyl:	hydroxymethyl, 2-hydroxyethyl, 1-hydroxyethyl and 3-hydroxypropyl;
for (1-6C)alkoxy-(1-6C)alkyl:	methoxymethyl, ethoxymethyl, 1-methoxyethyl, 2-methoxyethyl, 2-ethoxyethyl and 3-methoxypropyl;
for cyano-(1-6C)alkyl:	cyanomethyl, 2-cyanoethyl, 1-cyanoethyl and 3-cyanopropyl;
for amino-(1-6C)alkyl:	aminomethyl, 2-aminoethyl, 1-aminoethyl and 3-aminopropyl;
for (1-6C)alkylamino-(1-6C)alkyl:	methylaminomethyl, ethylaminomethyl, 1-methylaminoethyl, 2-methylaminoethyl, 2-ethylaminoethyl and 3-methylaminopropyl;
for di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino-(1-6C)alkyl:	dimethylaminomethyl, diethylaminomethyl, 1-dimethylaminoethyl, 2-dimethylaminoethyl and 3-dimethylaminopropyl.
for (2-6C)alkanoyloxy:	acetoxy and propionyloxy:
for (1-6C)alkanoylamino:	formamido, acetamido and propionamido;

for carboxy-(1-6C)alkyl: carboxymethyl, 1-carboxyethyl, 2-carboxyethyl, 3-carboxypropyl and 4-carboxybutyl;

for (1-6C)alkoxycarbonyl-(1-6C)alkyl: methoxycarbonylmethyl, ethoxycarbonylmethyl, tert-butoxycarbonylmethyl, 1-methoxycarbonylethyl, 1-ethoxycarbonylethyl, 2-methoxycarbonylethyl, 2-ethoxycarbonylethyl, 3-methoxycarbonylpropyl and 3-ethoxycarbonylpropyl;

for (1-6C)alkylthio: methylthio, ethylthio and propylthio;

for (1-6C)alkylsulphinyl: methylsulphinyl, ethylsulphinyl and propylsulphinyl;

for (1-6C)alkylsulphonyl: methylsulphonyl, ethylsulphonyl and propylsulphonyl;

for N-(1-6C)alkylsulphamoyl: N-methylsulphamoyl and N-ethylsulphamoyl;

for N,N-di-[(1-6C)alkyl]sulphamoyl: N,N-dimethylsulphamoyl;

A suitable value for a substituent on Q_b when it is (3-6C)cycloalkyl is, for example, a saturated monocyclic 3- to 6-membered carbon ring such as cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl, preferably cyclopropyl, cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl, more preferably cyclopropyl.

A suitable value for a substituent on Q_b when it is (3-6C)cycloalkyl-(1-6C)alkyl is, for example, cyclopropylmethyl, cyclobutylmethyl, cyclopentylmethyl, cyclohexylmethyl, cyclopropylethyl , preferably cyclopropylmethyl or cyclopropylethyl, more preferably cyclopropylmethyl.

A suitable pharmaceutically-acceptable salt of a compound of the Formula I, for example, an acid-addition salt of a compound of the Formula I which is sufficiently basic, for example, an acid-addition salt with an inorganic or organic acid such as hydrochloric, hydrobromic, sulphuric, phosphoric, trifluoroacetic, citric, maleic, tartaric, fumaric, hemifumaric, methanesulphonic or 4-toluenesulphonic acid.

Further values of Q_a, Q_b, R_1 and R_2 are as follows. Such values may be used where appropriate with any of the definitions, claims or embodiments defined hereinbefore or hereinafter.

Q_a is phenyl or heteroaryl, and Q_a may optionally bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, (1-6C)alkyl, (2-6C)alkenyl,

(2-6C)alkynyl, (1-6C)alkoxy, (1-6C)alkylamino, di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino and (1-6C)alkoxycarbonyl.

Q_a is heteroaryl, and Q_a may optionally bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, (1-6C)alkyl, (2-6C)alkenyl, (2-6C)alkynyl, (1-6C)alkoxy, (1-6C)alkylamino, di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino and (1-6C)alkoxycarbonyl.

Q_a is phenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl or pyradazinyl, and Q_a may optionally bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, (1-6C)alkyl, (2-6C)alkenyl, (2-6C)alkynyl, (1-6C)alkoxy, (1-6C)alkylamino, di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino and (1-6C)alkoxycarbonyl.

Q_a is phenyl or heteroaryl, and Q_a may optionally bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from, halogeno, (1-6C)alkyl and (1-6C)alkoxy.

Q_a is phenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl or pyradazinyl, and Q_a may optionally bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from halogeno, (1-6C)alkyl and (1-6C)alkoxy.

Q_a is phenyl, pyridyl or pyrimidinyl, and Q_a may optionally bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from halogeno, (1-6C)alkyl and (1-6C)alkoxy.

Q_a is phenyl which optionally bears 1 or 2 substituents selected from, halogeno, (1-6C)alkyl and (1-6C)alkoxy.

Q_a is heteroaryl, which optionally bears 1 or 2 substituents selected from, halogeno, (1-6C)alkyl and (1-6C)alkoxy.

Q_a is phenyl or heteroaryl, and Q_a may optionally bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from, fluoro, chloro, methyl and methoxy.

Q_a is phenyl, which optionally bears 1 or 2 substituents selected from, fluoro, chloro, methyl and methoxy.

Q_a is heteroaryl, which optionally bears 1 or 2 substituents selected from, fluoro, chloro, methyl and methoxy.

Q_a is phenyl, pyridyl or pyrimidinyl, which bears 1 or 2 substituents selected from, fluoro, chloro, methyl and methoxy.

Q_a is phenyl or heteroaryl, which bears 1 or 2 substituents selected from, fluoro, chloro, methyl and methoxy.

Q_b is phenyl, heteroaryl or heterocyclyl, and Q_b may optionally bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, (1-6C)alkyl, (2-6C)alkenyl, (2-6C)alkynyl, (3-6C)cycloalkyl, (3-6C)cycloalkyl-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkoxy, (3-6C)cycloalkoxy, (3-6C)cycloalkyl-(1-6C)alkoxy, carboxy, (1-6C)alkoxycarbonyl, N-(1-6C)alkylcarbamoyl, N,N-di-[(1-6C)alkyl]carbamoyl, (2-6C)alkanoyl, amino, (1-6C)alkylamino, di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino, halogeno-(1-6C)alkyl, hydroxy-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkoxy-(1-6C)alkyl, cyano-(1-6C)alkyl, amino-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkylamino-(1-6C)alkyl and di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino-(1-6C)alkyl.

Q_b is phenyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, furanyl, pyrido[1,2-a]imidazolyl, thiadiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, piperidinyl, piperizinyl or pyrroldinyl, and Q_b may optionally bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, (1-6C)alkyl, (2-6C)alkenyl, (2-6C)alkynyl, (3-6C)cycloalkyl, (3-6C)cycloalkyl-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkoxy, (3-6C)cycloalkoxy, (3-6C)cycloalkyl-(1-6C)alkoxy, carboxy, (1-6C)alkoxycarbonyl, N-(1-6C)alkylcarbamoyl, N,N-di-[(1-6C)alkyl]carbamoyl, (2-6C)alkanoyl, amino, (1-6C)alkylamino, di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino, halogeno-(1-6C)alkyl, hydroxy-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkoxy-(1-6C)alkyl, cyano-(1-6C)alkyl, amino-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkylamino-(1-6C)alkyl and di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino-(1-6C)alkyl.

Q_b is phenyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, furanyl, pyrido[1,2-a]imidazolyl, thiadiazolyl, oxazolyl or isoxazolyl, and Q_b may optionally bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, (1-6C)alkyl, (2-6C)alkenyl, (2-6C)alkynyl, (3-6C)cycloalkyl, (3-6C)cycloalkyl-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkoxy, (3-6C)cycloalkoxy, (3-6C)cycloalkyl-(1-6C)alkoxy, carboxy, (1-6C)alkoxycarbonyl, N-(1-6C)alkylcarbamoyl, N,N-di-[(1-6C)alkyl]carbamoyl, (2-6C)alkanoyl, amino, (1-6C)alkylamino, di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino, halogeno-(1-6C)alkyl, hydroxy-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkoxy-(1-6C)alkyl, cyano-(1-6C)alkyl, amino-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkylamino-(1-6C)alkyl and di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino-(1-6C)alkyl.

Q_b is phenyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, furanyl, pyrido[1,2-a]imidazolyl, thiadiazolyl, oxazolyl or isoxazolyl, and Q_b may optionally bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from hydroxy, fluoro, chloro, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, methoxy, ethoxy, methoxycarbonyl and ethoxycarboyl.

R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from hydrogen, (1-6C)alkyl, (2-6C)alkenyl and (2-6C)alkynyl;

R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from hydrogen and (1-6C)alkyl.

R_1 and R_2 are hydrogen.

Particular novel compounds of the invention include, for example, amide derivatives of the Formula I, or pharmaceutically-acceptable salts thereof, wherein:-

(a) Q_a is phenyl or heteroaryl, and Q_a may optionally bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, (1-6C)alkyl, (2-6C)alkenyl, (2-6C)alkynyl, (1-6C)alkoxy, (1-6C)alkylamino, di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino and (1-6C)alkoxycarbonyl;

Q_b is phenyl, heteroaryl or heterocyclyl, and Q_b may optionally bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, (1-6C)alkyl, (2-6C)alkenyl, (2-6C)alkynyl, (3-6C)cycloalkyl, (3-6C)cycloalkyl-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkoxy, (3-6C)cycloalkoxy, (3-6C)cycloalkyl-(1-6C)alkoxy, carboxy, (1-6C)alkoxycarbonyl, N-(1-6C)alkylcarbamoyl, N,N-di-[(1-6C)alkyl]carbamoyl, (2-6C)alkanoyl, amino, (1-6C)alkylamino, di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino, halogeno-(1-6C)alkyl, hydroxy-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkoxy-(1-6C)alkyl, cyano-(1-6C)alkyl, amino-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkylamino-(1-6C)alkyl and di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino-(1-6C)alkyl and R_1 and R_2 are hydrogen.

(b) Q_a is phenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl or pyradazinyl, and Q_a may optionally bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, (1-6C)alkyl, (2-6C)alkenyl, (2-6C)alkynyl, (1-6C)alkoxy, (1-6C)alkylamino, di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino and (1-6C)alkoxycarbonyl;

Q_b is phenyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, furanyl, pyrido[1,2-a]imidazolyl, thiadiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, piperidinyl, piperizinyl or pyrroldinyl, and Q_b may optionally bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, (1-6C)alkyl, (2-6C)alkenyl, (2-6C)alkynyl, (3-6C)cycloalkyl, (3-6C)cycloalkyl-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkoxy, (3-6C)cycloalkoxy, (3-6C)cycloalkyl-(1-6C)alkoxy, carboxy, (1-6C)alkoxycarbonyl, N-(1-6C)alkylcarbamoyl, N,N-di-[(1-6C)alkyl]carbamoyl, (2-6C)alkanoyl, amino, (1-6C)alkylamino, di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino, halogeno-(1-6C)alkyl, hydroxy-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkoxy-(1-6C)alkyl, cyano-(1-6C)alkyl, amino-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkylamino-(1-6C)alkyl and di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino-(1-6C)alkyl and R_1 and R_2 are hydrogen.

(c) Q_a is phenyl which optionally bears 1 or 2 substituents selected from, halogeno, (1-6C)alkyl and (1-6C)alkoxy; Q_b is phenyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, furanyl, pyrido[1,2-a]imidazolyl, thiadiazolyl, oxazolyl or isoxazolyl, and Q_b may optionally bear 1 or

2 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, (1-6C)alkyl, (2-6C)alkenyl, (2-6C)alkynyl, (3-6C)cycloalkyl, (3-6C)cycloalkyl-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkoxy, (3-6C)cycloalkoxy, (3-6C)cycloalkyl-(1-6C)alkoxy, carboxy, (1-6C)alkoxycarbonyl, N-(1-6C)alkylcarbamoyl, N,N-di-[(1-6C)alkyl]carbamoyl, (2-6C)alkanoyl, amino, (1-6C)alkylamino, di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino, halogeno-(1-6C)alkyl, hydroxy-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkoxy-(1-6C)alkyl, cyano-(1-6C)alkyl, amino-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkylamino-(1-6C)alkyl and di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino-(1-6C)alkyl and R_1 and R_2 are hydrogen.

(d) Q_a is phenyl, which optionally bears 1 or 2 substituents selected from, fluoro, chloro, methyl and methoxy; Q_b is phenyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, furanyl, pyrido[1,2-a]imidazolyl, thiadiazolyl, oxazolyl or isoxazolyl, and Q_b may optionally bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from hydroxy, fluoro, chloro, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, methoxy, ethoxy, methoxycarbonyl and ethoxycarboyl and R_1 and R_2 are hydrogen.

A particular preferred compound of the invention is, for example :-

3-{[4-(benzyloxy)benzoyl]amino}-N-cyclopropyl-4-methylbenzamide;

3-{[3-(benzyloxy)benzoyl]amino}-N-cyclopropyl-4-methylbenzamide;

4-(benzyloxy)-N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-methylbenzamide;

4-(benzyloxy)-3-fluoro-N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}benzamide;

4-(benzyloxy)-3-chloro-N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{[4-(pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino}benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{[4-(1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino}benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{[4-(pyridin-3-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino}benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-({4-[(5-methylisoxazol-3-yl)methoxy]benzoyl}amino)benzamide;

3-({4-[(5-chloro-1,2,3-thiadiazol-4-yl)methoxy]benzoyl}amino)-N-cyclopropyl-4-methylbenzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-3-{[4-(imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino}-4-methylbenzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-({4-[(2-methyl-1,3-thiazol-4-yl) methoxy]benzoyl}amino)benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-3-({4-[(3,5-dimethylisoxazol-4-yl)methoxy]benzoyl}amino)-4-methylbenzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{[4-(1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino}benzamide;

methyl 5-({4-[({5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}amino)carbonyl]phenoxy}methyl)-2-furoate;

3-({4-[(2-chloro-1,3-thiazol-5-yl)methoxy]benzoyl}amino)-N-cyclopropyl-4-methylbenzamide;

4-(benzyloxy)-N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-methoxybenzamide;

N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-methoxy-4-(pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)benzamide;

N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-methoxy-4-(1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethoxy)benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{[3-methyl-4-(pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino}benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{[3-methyl-4-(1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino}benzamide;

N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-fluoro-4-(pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)benzamide;

N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-fluoro-4-[(2-methyl-1,3-thiazol-4-yl)methoxy]benzamide;

N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-4-[(3,5-dimethylisoxazol-4-yl)methoxy]-3-fluorobenzamide;

N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-fluoro-4-(1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-ylmethoxy)benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{[3-(1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino}benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-({3-[(2-methyl-1,3-thiazol-4-yl)methoxy]benzoyl}amino)benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{[3-(pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino}benzamide;

N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-fluoro-4-(1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethoxy)benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-({3-methyl-4-[(2-methyl-1,3-thiazol-4-yl)methoxy]benzoyl}amino)benzamide;

N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-4-[(3,5-dimethylisoxazol-4-yl)methoxy]-3-methylbenzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{[3-methyl-4-(1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino}benzamide;

methyl 5-({4-[({5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}amino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenoxy}methyl)-2-furoate;

3-chloro-N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-4-(pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)benzamide;

3-chloro-N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-4-(1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethoxy)benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-3-({3-[(3,5-dimethylisoxazol-4-yl)methoxy]benzoyl}amino)-4-methylbenzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{[3-(1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino}benzamide;

3-({3-[(2-chloro-1,3-thiazol-5-yl)methoxy]benzoyl}amino)-N-cyclopropyl-4-methylbenzamide;

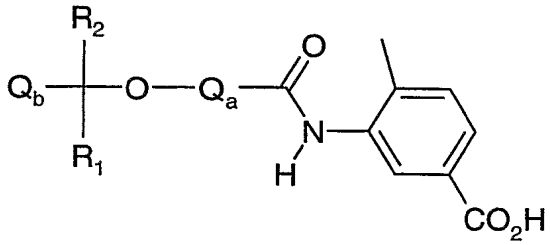
N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-fluoro-4-(imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)benzamide; and

N-cyclopropyl-3-({4-[(4-methoxypyridin-2-yl)methoxy]benzoyl}amino)-4-methylbenzamide;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

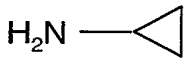
Compounds of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salts thereof, may be prepared by any process known to be applicable to the preparation of chemically-related compounds. Suitable processes are illustrated by, for example, those in WO 00/07980. Such processes, when used to prepare a novel compound of the Formula I are provided as a further feature of the invention and are illustrated by the following representative process variants in which, unless otherwise stated, Q_a, Q_b, R_1 and R_2 have any of the meanings defined hereinbefore. Necessary starting materials may be obtained by standard procedures of organic chemistry. The preparation of such starting materials is described in conjunction with the following representative process variants and within the accompanying Examples. Alternatively necessary starting materials are obtainable by analogous procedures to those illustrated which are within the ordinary skill of an organic chemist.

(a) A compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, may be prepared by reacting a benzoic acid of the Formula II, or a activated derivative thereof,



II

with an amine of the Formula III



III

under standard amide bond forming conditions, wherein Q_a, Q_b, R_1 and R_2 are as defined hereinbefore and wherein any functional group is optionally protected , and:

(i) removing any protecting groups; and

(ii) optionally forming a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt.

A suitable activated derivative of an acid of the Formula II is, for example, an acyl halide, for example an acyl chloride formed by the reaction of the acid and an inorganic acid chloride, for example thionyl chloride; a mixed anhydride, for example an anhydride formed by the reaction of the acid and a chloroformate such as isobutyl chloroformate; an active ester, for example an ester formed by the reaction of the acid and a phenol such as pentafluorophenol, an ester such as pentafluorophenyl trifluoroacetate or an alcohol such as N-hydroxybenzotriazole; an acyl azide, for example an azide formed by the reaction of the acid and an azide such as diphenylphosphoryl azide; an acyl cyanide, for example a cyanide formed by the reaction of an acid and a cyanide such as diethylphosphoryl cyanide; or the product of the reaction of the acid and a carbodiimide such as dicyclohexylcarbodiimide.

The reaction is preferably carried out in the presence of a suitable base such as, for example, an alkali or alkaline earth metal carbonate, alkoxide, hydroxide or hydride, for example sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, sodium ethoxide, potassium butoxide, sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sodium hydride or potassium hydride, or an organometallic base such as an alkyl-lithium, for example n-butyl-lithium, or a dialkylamino-lithium, for example lithium di-isopropylamide, or, for example, an organic amine base such as, for example, pyridine, 2,6-lutidine, collidine, 4-dimethylaminopyridine, triethylamine, morpholine or diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene. The reaction is also preferably carried out in a suitable inert solvent or diluent, for example tetrahydrofuran, methylene

chloride, 1,2-dimethoxyethane, N,N-dimethylformamide, N,N-dimethylacetamide, N-methylpyrrolidin-2-one, dimethylsulphoxide or acetone, and at a temperature in the range, for example, -78 to 150°C, conveniently at or near ambient temperature.

Typically a carbodiimide coupling reagent is used in the presence of an organic solvent (preferably an anhydrous polar aprotic organic solvent) at a non-extreme temperature, for example in the region -10 to 40°C, typically at ambient temperature of about 20°C.

Protecting groups may in general be chosen from any of the groups described in the literature or known to the skilled chemist as appropriate for the protection of the group in question and may be introduced by conventional methods. Protecting groups may be removed by any convenient method as described in the literature or known to the skilled chemist as appropriate for the removal of the protecting group in question, such methods being chosen so as to effect removal of the protecting group with minimum disturbance of groups elsewhere in the molecule.

Specific examples of protecting groups are given below for the sake of convenience, in which "lower", as in, for example, lower alkyl, signifies that the group to which it is applied preferably has 1-4 carbon atoms. It will be understood that these examples are not exhaustive. Where specific examples of methods for the removal of protecting groups are given below these are similarly not exhaustive. The use of protecting groups and methods of deprotection not specifically mentioned is of course within the scope of the invention.

A carboxy protecting group may be the residue of an ester-forming aliphatic or arylaliphatic alcohol or of an ester-forming silanol (the said alcohol or silanol preferably containing 1-20 carbon atoms). Examples of carboxy protecting groups include straight or branched chain (1-12C)alkyl groups (for example isopropyl, tert-butyl); lower alkoxy lower alkyl groups (for example methoxymethyl, ethoxymethyl, isobutoxymethyl); lower aliphatic acyloxy lower alkyl groups, (for example acetoxymethyl, propionyloxymethyl, butyryloxymethyl, pivaloyloxymethyl); lower alkoxycarbonyloxy lower alkyl groups (for example 1-methoxycarbonyloxyethyl, 1-ethoxycarbonyloxyethyl); aryl lower alkyl groups (for example benzyl, p-methoxybenzyl, o-nitrobenzyl, p-nitrobenzyl, benzhydryl and phthalidyl); tri(lower alkyl)silyl groups (for example trimethylsilyl and tert-butyldimethylsilyl); tri(lower alkyl)silyl lower alkyl groups (for example trimethylsilylethyl); and (2-6C)alkenyl groups (for example allyl and vinylethyl). Methods particularly appropriate for the removal of

carboxyl protecting groups include for example acid-, base-, metal- or enzymically-catalysed hydrolysis.

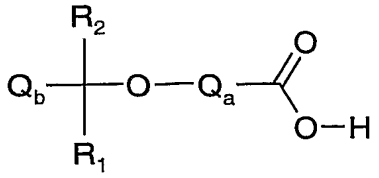
Examples of hydroxy protecting groups include lower alkyl groups (for example tert-butyl), lower alkenyl groups (for example allyl); lower alkanoyl groups (for example acetyl); lower alkoxycarbonyl groups (for example tert-butoxycarbonyl); lower alkenyloxycarbonyl groups (for example allyloxycarbonyl); aryl lower alkoxycarbonyl groups (for example benzoyloxycarbonyl, p-methoxybenzyloxycarbonyl, o-nitrobenzyloxycarbonyl, p-nitrobenzyloxycarbonyl); tri lower alkylsilyl (for example trimethylsilyl, tert-butyldimethylsilyl) and aryl lower alkyl (for example benzyl) groups.

Examples of amino protecting groups include formyl, aralkyl groups (for example benzyl and substituted benzyl, p-methoxybenzyl, nitrobenzyl and 2,4-dimethoxybenzyl, and triphenylmethyl); di-p-anisylmethyl and furylmethyl groups; lower alkoxycarbonyl (for example tert-butoxycarbonyl); lower alkenyloxycarbonyl (for example allyloxycarbonyl); aryl lower alkoxycarbonyl groups (for example benzyloxycarbonyl, p-methoxybenzyloxycarbonyl, o-nitrobenzyloxycarbonyl, p-nitrobenzyloxycarbonyl; trialkylsilyl (for example trimethylsilyl and tert-butyldimethylsilyl); alkylidene (for example methylidene); benzylidene and substituted benzylidene groups.

Methods appropriate for removal of hydroxy and amino protecting groups include, for example, acid-, base-, metal- or enzymically-catalysed hydrolysis for groups such as p-nitrobenzyloxycarbonyl, hydrogenation for groups such as benzyl and photolytically for groups such as o-nitrobenzyloxycarbonyl.

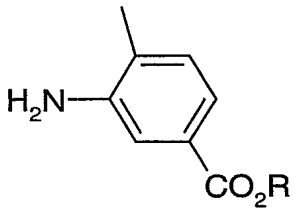
The reader is referred to Advanced Organic Chemistry, 4th Edition, by Jerry March, published by John Wiley & Sons 1992, for general guidance on reaction conditions and reagents. The reader is referred to Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis, 3rd Edition, by Green and Wuts, published by John Wiley & Sons for general guidance on protecting groups.

The benzoic acid of Formula II may be prepared by the cleavage of the corresponding ester thereof which, in turn, may be prepared by reaction of an acid of Formula IV wherein Q_a, Q_b, R_1 and R_2 are as defined hereinbefore, or an activated derivative thereof as defined hereinbefore,



IV

with an aniline of Formula V

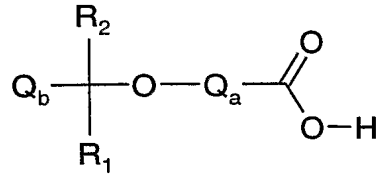


V

wherein R is, for example, lower alkyl or benzyl, under suitable amide bond forming conditions as defined hereinbefore.

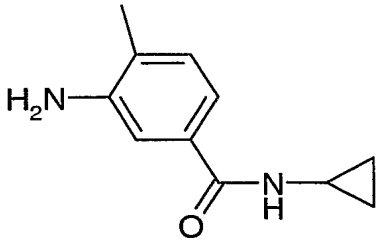
Typical conditions include activating the carboxy group of the compound of Formula IV, for example by treatment with a halo reagent (for example oxalyl chloride) to form an acyl halide in an organic solvent at ambient temperature and then reacting the activated compound with the aniline of Formula V. Any functional groups are protected and deprotected as necessary.

(b) A compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, may be prepared by reacting an acid of the Formula IV, or an activated derivative thereof as defined hereinbefore,



IV

with an aniline of the Formula VI



VI

under standard amide bond forming conditions as defined hereinbefore, wherein Q_a, Q_b, R_1 and R_2 are as defined hereinbefore and wherein any functional group is optionally protected, and:

(i) removing any protecting groups;

(ii) optionally forming a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt.

The aniline of Formula VI may be prepared by reduction of the corresponding nitro compound using convention procedures such as those illustrated in the Examples. Typical reaction conditions include the use of ammonium formate or hydrogen gas in the presence of a catalyst (for example palladium-on-carbon) in the presence of an organic solvent (preferably a polar protic solvent), preferably with heating, for example to about 60°C. Any functional groups are protected and deprotected as necessary.

(c) A compound of the Formula I wherein a substituent on Q_a or Q_b is (1-6C)alkoxy or substituted (1-6C)alkoxy, (1-6C)alkylamino, di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino or substituted (1-6C)alkylamino, may be prepared by the alkylation, conveniently in the presence of a suitable base as defined hereinbefore, of an amide derivative of the Formula I wherein a substituent on Q_a or Q_b is hydroxy or amino as appropriate.

The reaction is preferably carried out in the presence of a suitable inert solvent or diluent, for example a halogenated solvent such as methylene chloride, chloroform or carbon tetrachloride, an ether such as tetrahydrofuran or 1,4-dioxan, an aromatic solvent such as toluene, or a dipolar aprotic solvent such as N,N-dimethylformamide, N,N-dimethylacetamide, N-methylpyrrolidin-2-one or dimethylsulphoxide. The reaction is conveniently carried out at a temperature in the range, for example, 10 to 150°C, preferably in the range 20 to 80°C.

A suitable alkylating agent is, for example, any agent known in the art for the alkylation of hydroxy to alkoxy or substituted alkoxy, or for the alkylation of mercapto to alkylthio, or for the alkylation of amino to alkylamino or substituted alkylamino, or for the alkylation of hydroxy to heterocyclyloxy, for example an alkyl or substituted alkyl halide, for example a (1-6C)alkyl chloride, bromide or iodide or a substituted (1-6C)alkyl chloride, bromide or iodide or a heterocyclyl chloride, bromide or iodide, in the presence of a suitable base as defined hereinbefore.

(d) A compound of the Formula I wherein a substituent on Q_a or Q_b is (1-6C)alkanoylamino or substituted (2-6C)alkanoylamino may be prepared by the acylation of a compound of the Formula I wherein a substituent on Q_a or Q_b is amino.

A suitable acylating agent is, for example, any agent known in the art for the acylation

of amino to acylamino, for example an acyl halide, for example a (1-6C)alkanoyl chloride or bromide, conveniently in the presence of a suitable base, as defined hereinbefore, an alkanoic acid anhydride or mixed anhydride, for example a (1-6C)alkanoic acid anhydride such as acetic anhydride or the mixed anhydride formed by the reaction of an alkanoic acid and a (1-6C)alkoxycarbonyl halide, for example a (1-6C)alkoxycarbonyl chloride, in the presence of a suitable base as defined hereinbefore. In general the acylation is carried out in a suitable inert solvent or diluent as defined hereinbefore and at a temperature, in the range, for example, -30 to 120°C, conveniently at or near ambient temperature.

(e) A compound of the Formula I wherein a substituent on Q_b is (1-6C)alkanesulphonylamino may be prepared by the reaction of a compound of the Formula I wherein a substituent on Q_b is amino with a (1-6C)alkanesulphonic acid, or an activated derivative thereof.

A suitable activated derivative of a (1-6C)alkanesulphonic acid is, for example, an alkanesulphonyl halide, for example an alkanesulphonyl chloride formed by the reaction of the sulphonic acid and an inorganic acid chloride, for example thionyl chloride. The reaction is preferably carried out in the presence of a suitable base as defined hereinbefore, particularly pyridine, and in a suitable inert solvent or diluent as defined hereinbefore, particularly methylene chloride.

(f) A compound of the Formula I wherein a substituent on Q_a or Q_b is amino-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkylamino-(1-6C)alkyl, di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino-(1-6C)alkyl, may be prepared by the reaction of a compound of the Formula I wherein a substituent on Q_b is a group of the formula -(1-6C)alkylene-Z wherein Z is a displaceable group with an appropriate amine.

A suitable displaceable group Z is, for example, a halogeno group such as fluoro, chloro or bromo, a (1-6C)alkanesulphonyloxy group such as methanesulphonyloxy or an arylsulphonyloxy group such as 4-toluenesulphonyloxy.

The reaction is conveniently carried out in the presence of a suitable base as defined hereinbefore and in the presence of a suitable inert diluent or carrier as defined hereinbefore. The reaction is conveniently carried out at a temperature in the range 10 to 150°C, preferably at or near 50°C.

(g) A compound of the Formula I wherein a substituent on Q_a or Q_b is an amino group may be prepared by the reduction of a compound of the Formula I wherein a substituent on Q_a

or Q_b is a nitro group.

Typical reaction conditions include the use of ammonium formate or hydrogen gas in the presence of a catalyst, for example a metallic catalyst such as palladium-on-carbon. Alternatively a dissolving metal reduction may be carried out, for example using iron in the presence of an acid, for example an inorganic or organic acid such as hydrochloric, hydrobromic, sulphuric or acetic acid. The reaction is conveniently carried out in the presence of an organic solvent (preferably a polar protic solvent) and preferably with heating, for example to about 60°C. Any functional groups are protected and deprotected as necessary.

The following biological assays and Examples serve to illustrate the present invention.

Biological Assays

The following assays can be used to measure the p38 kinase-inhibitory, the TNF-inhibitory and anti-arthritic effects of compounds of the Formula I:

In vitro enzyme assay

The ability test compounds to inhibit the enzyme p38 kinase was assessed. Activity of the test compound against each of the p38α and p38β isoforms of the enzyme was determined.

Human recombinant MKK6 (GenBank Accesion Number G1209672) was isolated from Image clone 45578 (Genomics, 1996, 33, 151) and utilised to produce protein in the form of a GST fusion protein in a pGEX vector using analogous procedures to those disclosed by J. Han et al., Journal of Biological Chemistry, 1996, 271, 2886-2891. p38α (GenBank Accession Number G529039) and p38β (GenBank Accession Number G1469305) were isolated by PCR amplification of human lymphoblastoid cDNA (GenBank Accession Number GM1416) and human foetal brain cDNA [synthesised from mRNA (Clontech, catalogue no. 6525-1) using a Gibco superscript cDNA synthesis kit] respectively using oligonucleotides designed for the 5′ and 3′ ends of the human p38α and p38β genes using analogous procedures to those described by J.Han et al., Biochimica et Biophysica Acta, 1995, 1265, 224-227 and Y. Jiang et al., Journal of Biological Chemistry, 1996, 271, 17920-17926.

Both p38 protein isoforms were expressed in E.coli in PET vectors. Human recombinant p38α and p38β isoforms were produced as 5′ c-myc, 6His tagged proteins. Both MKK6 and the p38 proteins were purified using standard protocols: the GST MKK6 was purified using a glutathione sepharose column and the p38 proteins were purified using nickel

chelate columns.

The p38 enzymes were activated prior to use by incubation with MKK6 for 3 hours at 30°C. The unactivated E.coli-expressed MKK6 retained sufficient activity to fully activate both isoforms of p38. For p38α, the activation incubate comprised p38α (50µl of 10mg/ml), MKK6 (5µl of 12mg/ml), 'Kinase buffer' [550µl; pH 7.4 buffer comprising Tris HCl (50mM), EGTA (0.1mM), sodium orthovanadate (0.1mM) and β-mercaptoethanol (0.1%)], Mg [75µl of 100mM $Mg(OCOCH_3)_2$] and ATP (75µl of 1mM). The activation incubate for p38β was similar to the above except containing p38β enzyme (82µl at 3.05mg/ml) and 518µl "Kinase buffer". p38α and p38β activation incubates were either used fresh or aliquoted and stored at -80°C.

The test compound was solubilised in DMSO (10mM) and 1:3 serial dilutions in DMSO carried out in polypropylene plates (Costar 3365). Compound dilutions were then diluted 1:10 in "Kinase buffer" and 10µl transferred to a microtiter assay plate (Costar 3596). Control wells contained 10µl (1:10 dilution in kinase buffer) DMSO. 'Kinase Assay Mix' [30µl; comprising Myelin Basic Protein (Sigma M-1891; 0.5ml of a 6.66mg/ml solution in "Kinase buffer"), activated p38α enzyme (3.8µl) and 'Kinase Buffer' (2.55ml)] was then added. Control wells on each plate either contained the above "Kinase Assay Mix" (n=6 replicates) or contained "Kinase Assay Mix" in which the activated p38 enzyme was replaced by Kinase buffer (n=6 replicates). 'Labelled ATP' was then added to all wells [10µl; comprising 50µM ATP, 5µCi ^{33}P ATP (Amersham International cat. no. AH9968) and 50mM $Mg(OCOCH_3)_2$]. For p38β, 23µl activated p38β enzyme and "Kinase buffer" (2.53 ml) were included in the "Kinase Assay Mix". The final concentration of test compound was 2.4µM–0.001µM (n=2 replicates). Microtiter plates were incubated at ambient temperature (with gentle agitation) for 60 minutes and the reaction stopped by addition of 20% trichloroacetic acid (TCA) (50µl). The precipitate protein was captured onto filter plates (PerkinElmer 6005174) using a Packard Filtermate harvester (2% TCA wash) which was then dried overnight and 25µl MICROSCINT O (Packard O6013611) added to each well. Plates were counted on a Top Count scintillation counter. Dose response curves were generated using an in house automated data analysis package and an Origin curve fitting package.

In vitro cell-based assays

(i) **PBMC**

The ability of a test compound to inhibit TNFα production was assessed by using human peripheral blood mononuclear cells which synthesise and secrete TNFα when stimulated with lipopolysaccharide (LPS).

Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) were isolated from heparinised (10 units/ml heparin) human blood by density centrifugation (Lymphoprep™ ; Nycomed). Mononuclear cells were resuspended in "Culture Medium" [RPMI 1640 medium (Sigma R0883) containing 50 units/ml penicillin, 50μg/ml streptomycin and 2mM glutamine] supplemented with 1% heat-inactivated human AB serum (Sigma H-1513)]. Compounds were solubilised in DMSO at a concentration of 20mM, diluted 1:100 in "culture medium" and serial dilutions carried out in "Culture Medium" containing 1% DMSO. PBMCs ($2.2x10^5$ cells in 160μl culture medium) were incubated with 20μl of varying concentrations of test compound (duplicate cultures) or 20μl culture medium containing 1% DMSO (control wells) for 30 minutes at 37°C in a humidified (5%CO_2/95% air) incubator (Corning 3595 ; 96 well flat-bottom tissue culture plates). 20μl lipopolysaccharide [LPS E.Coli 0111:B4 (Sigma L-4130), final concentration 0.1μg/ml] solubilised in "Culture Medium" was added to appropriate wells. 20μl Culture Medium was added to "medium alone" control wells. Six "LPS alone" and six "medium alone" controls were included on each 96 well plate.

The test compound was tested for TNFα inhibitory activity over a final concentration dose range of 20μM–0.0001μM. Each test included a known TNFα inhibitor i.e. the p38 MAPK inhibitor, SB203580 (Lee, J.C., et al (1994) Nature 372 p739-746). Plates were incubated for 24 hours at 37°C (humidified incubator) after which 100μl of the supernatant was removed from each well and stored at -80°C (96 well round-bottom plates; Corning 3799). TNFα levels were determined in each sample using a human TNFα ELISA (using R&D Systems paired antibodies, MAB610 and BAF210.

$$\% \text{ inhibition} = \frac{(\text{LPS alone - medium alone}) - (\text{test concentration - medium alone})}{(\text{LPS alone - medium alone})} \times 100$$

(ii) **Human Whole Blood**

The ability of a test compound to inhibit TNFα production was also assessed in a human whole blood assay. Human whole blood secretes TNFα when stimulated with LPS.

Heparinised (10 units/ml) human blood was obtained from volunteers. 160µl whole blood was added to 96 well round-bottom plates (Corning 3799). Compounds were solubilised in DMSO at a concentration of 10mM, diluted 1:100 in "culture medium" [RPMI 1640 medium (Sigma) containing 50 units/ml penicillin, 50µg/ml streptomycin and 2mM glutamine] and subsequently serial dilutions were made in culture medium containing 1% DMSO. 20µl of each test concentration was added to appropriate wells (triplicate cultures)(final concentration dose range of 10µM–0.0001µM). 20µl of RPMI culture medium containing 1% DMSO was added to control wells.

Plates were incubated for 30 minutes at 37°C (humidified incubator), prior to addition of 20µl LPS (final concentration 10µg/ml). Culture medium was added to control wells. Six "LPS alone" and six "medium alone" controls were included on each plate. A known TNFα synthesis/secretion inhibitor was included in each test. Plates were incubated for 6 hours at 37°C (humidified incubator). Plates were centrifuged (2000 rpm for 10 minutes) and 80µl plasma removed and stored at -80°C (Corning 3799 plates). TNFα levels were measured by ELISA using paired antibodies from R&D Systems (catalogue nos. MAB610 and BAF210).

In vivo assessment

The ability of a test compound to inhibit TNFα synthesis in vivo was assessed in a rat lipopolysaccharide (LPS) -challenge model. Briefly, compound was dosed orally (100–0.3mg/kg in 20% DMSO (Sigma D-2650) / 60% PEG 400 (Fisher Scientific P/3676/08) / 20% sterile de-ionised water ; 5 animals per group) to female Wistar Alderley Park (AP) rats (80-100g) at appropriate timepoints prior to challenge with LPS. Control animals (10 per group) were dosed vehicle alone. LPS (LPS E.Coli 0111:B4 ; Sigma L-4130) was administered intravenously (30µg in 0.2 ml sterile physiological saline (Phoenix Pharma Ltd). A control group were challenged with 0.2 ml sterile physiological saline. Blood was obtained 60 minutes later from anaesthetised animals and serum isolated after 2 hours incubation at ambient temperature (Sarstedt serum separator 1ml microtubes, ref 41.1500.005) and centrifugation. Serum samples were stored at -80 °C prior to determination of TNFα content by ELISA (R&D Systems rat TNFα Quantikine kit, catalogue no. SRTA00). % inhibition TNFα calculated as

100 - [(compound treated – saline control) / LPS control – saline control) x100]

Test as anti-arthritic agent

Compound was tested for activity in a rat streptococcal cell-wall-induced arthritis model (SCW) [for further information see Carlson,R.P. and Jacobsen, P.B. (1999) Comparison of adjuvant and streptococcal cell-wall-induced arthritis in the rat. In *In Vivo* Models of Inflammation, eds Morgan, D.W. and Marshall, L.A., Birkhauser Verlag, Basel, Switzerland].

Briefly, female Lewis rats (160-180g) were sensitised by intra-articular injection of 5μg streptococcal cell wall (Lee Labs, PG-PS 100P) in 20μl sterile physiological saline into the left ankle. Responsiveness was assessed 3 days later and animals randomised. Arthritis was induced 21 days after sensitisation (designated day 0) by intravenous injection of 100μg scw (in 500μl sterile physiological saline). Compound was dosed orally(50-1 mg/kg once daily) (4 ml/kg) either before (day–1) or after disease onset (day+1) (10 animals per test group ; vehicle 0.5% (w/v) HPMC and 0.1%(w/v) polysorbate 80). Control animals (n=10) received vehicle alone. "Non-induced" control animals which were dosed with vehicle were also included (5 animals per group). Animals were weighed on a daily basis from day–1 and ankle diameters measured with Vernier callipers on a daily basis from day–1. At termination on day 6, left hind limbs were removed and fixed in 10% formalin for histological assessment.

Although the pharmacological properties of the compounds of the Formula I vary with structural change as expected, in general a compound of the Formula a gives over 50% inhibition of p38α and/or p38β at concentrations up to 1μM. No physiologically unacceptable toxicity was observed at the effective dose for compounds tested of the present invention.

By way of example :-

(i) N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-fluoro-4-[(2-methyl-1,3-thiazol-4-yl)methoxy]benzamide has an IC_{50} of approximately 0.007μM against p38α and an IC_{50} of approximately 0.47μM in the Human Whole Blood test; and

(ii) N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-fluoro-4-(pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)benzamide has an IC_{50} of approximately 0.008μM against p38α and an IC_{50} of approximately 0.37μM in the Human Whole Blood test.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a pharmaceutical composition which comprises compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, in association with a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent or carrier.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a pharmaceutical

composition for use in the treatment of diseases mediated by cytokines which comprises compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, in association with a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent or carrier.

The compositions of the invention may be in a form suitable for oral use (for example as tablets, lozenges, hard or soft capsules, aqueous or oily suspensions, emulsions, dispersible powders or granules, syrups or elixirs), for topical use (for example as creams, ointments, gels, or aqueous or oily solutions or suspensions), for administration by inhalation (for example as a finely divided powder or a liquid aerosol), for administration by insufflation (for example as a finely divided powder) or for parenteral administration (for example as a sterile aqueous or oily solution for intravenous, subcutaneous, intramuscular or intramuscular dosing or as a suppository for rectal dosing).

The compositions of the invention may be obtained by conventional procedures using conventional pharmaceutical excipients, well known in the art. Thus, compositions intended for oral use may contain, for example, one or more colouring, sweetening, flavouring and/or preservative agents.

The amount of active ingredient that is combined with one or more excipients to produce a single dosage form will necessarily vary depending upon the host treated and the particular route of administration. For example, a formulation intended for oral administration to humans will generally contain, for example, from 0.5 mg to 0.5 g of active agent compounded with an appropriate and convenient amount of excipients which may vary from about 5 to about 98 percent by weight of the total composition.

The size of the dose for therapeutic or prophylactic purposes of a compound of the Formula I of the invention will naturally vary according to the nature and severity of the conditions, the age and sex of the animal or patient and the route of administration, according to well known principles of medicine.

In using a compound of the Formula I for therapeutic or prophylactic purposes it will generally be administered so that a daily dose in the range, for example, 0.5 mg to 75 mg per kg body weight is received, given if required in divided doses. In general lower doses will be administered when a parenteral route is employed. Thus, for example, for intravenous administration, a dose in the range, for example, 0.5 mg to 30 mg per kg body weight will generally be used. Similarly, for administration by inhalation, a dose in the range, for example, 0.5 mg to 25 mg per kg body weight will be used. Oral administration is however

preferred, particularly in tablet form. Typically, unit dosage forms will contain about 1 mg to 500 mg of a compound of this invention.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, for use in a method of treatment of the human or animal body by therapy.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided the use of a compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided the use of a compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of medical conditions mediated by cytokines.

In a further aspect the present invention provides a method of treating diseases or medical conditions mediated by cytokines which comprises administering to a warm-blooded animal an effective amount of a compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

In a further aspect the present invention provides a method of treating a disease or medical condition mediated by cytokines which comprises administering to a warm-blooded animal in need thereof a cytokine inhibiting amount of a compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

In a further aspect the present invention provides a method of treating a disease or medical condition mediated by the production or effect of cytokines which comprises administering to a warm-blooded animal in need thereof a cytokine inhibiting amount of a compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

In a further aspect on the invention there is provided a method for inhibiting the production or effect of a cytokine in a warm-blooded animal in need thereof a p38 kinase inhibiting amount of a compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof

In a further aspect the present invention provides the use of a compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of diseases or medical conditions mediated by TNF, IL-1, IL-6 or IL-8.

In a further aspect the present invention provides a method of treating diseases or medical conditions mediated by TNF, IL-1, IL-6 or IL-8 which comprises administering to a

warm-blooded animal an effective amount of a compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

In a further aspect the present invention provides the use of a compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of diseases or medical conditions mediated by TNF.

In a further aspect the present invention provides a method of treating diseases or medical conditions mediated by TNF which comprises administering to a warm-blooded animal an effective amount of a compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

In a further aspect the present invention provides the use of a compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for use in inhibiting TNF, IL-1, IL-6 or IL-8.

In a further aspect the present invention provides a method of inhibiting TNF, IL-1, IL-6 or IL-8 which comprises administering to a warm-blooded animal an effective amount of a compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

In a further aspect the present invention provides the use of a compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for use in inhibiting TNF.

In a further aspect the present invention provides a method of inhibiting TNF which comprises administering to a warm-blooded animal an effective amount of a compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

In a further aspect the present invention provides a compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of diseases or medical conditions mediated by p38 kinase.

In a further aspect the present invention provides a method of treating diseases or medical conditions mediated by p38 kinase which comprises administering to a warm-blooded animal an effective amount of a compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically- acceptable salt thereof.

In a further aspect the present invention provides the use of a compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the production of a p38 kinase inhibitory effect.

In a further aspect the present invention provides a method of providing a p38 kinase

inhibitory effect which comprises administering to a warm-blooded animal an effective amount of a compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

In a further aspect the present invention provides the use of a compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, inflammatory bowel disease, multiple sclerosis, AIDS, septic shock, congestive heart failure, ischaemic heart disease or psoriasis.

In a further aspect the present invention provides a method of treating rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, inflammatory bowel disease, multiple sclerosis, AIDS, septic shock, congestive heart failure, ischaemic heart disease or psoriasis which comprises administering to a warm-blooded animal an effective amount of a compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

A compound of the Formula I may be used in combination with other drugs and therapies used in the treatment of disease states which would benefit from the inhibition of cytokines, in particular TNF and IL-1. For example, a compound of the Formula I could be used in combination with drugs and therapies used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, inflammatory bowel disease, multiple sclerosis, AIDS, septic shock, congestive heart failure, ischaemic heart disease, psoriasis and the other disease states mentioned earlier in this specification.

For example, by virtue of its ability to inhibit cytokines, a compound of the Formula I is of value in the treatment of certain inflammatory and non-inflammatory diseases which are currently treated with a cyclooxygenase-inhibitory non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) such as indomethacin, ketorolac, acetylsalicyclic acid, ibuprofen, sulindac, tolmetin and piroxicam. Co-administration of a compound of the Formula I of the present invention with a NSAID can result in a reduction of the quantity of the latter agent needed to produce a therapeutic effect. Thereby the likelihood of adverse side-effects from the NSAID such as gastrointestinal effects are reduced. Thus according to a further feature of the invention there is provided a pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of the Formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, in conjunction or admixture with a cyclooxygenase inhibitory non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent, and a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent or carrier.

A compound of the Formula I may also be used with anti-inflammatory agents such as an inhibitor of the enzyme 5-lipoxygenase.

A compound of the Formula I may also be used in the treatment of conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis in combination with antiarthritic agents such as gold, methotrexate, steroids and penicillinamine, and in conditions such as osteoarthritis in combination with steroids.

A compound of the Formula I may also be administered in degradative diseases, for example osteoarthritis, with chondroprotective, anti-degradative and/or reparative agents such as Diacerhein, hyaluronic acid formulations such as Hyalan, Rumalon, Arteparon and glucosamine salts such as Antril.

A compound of the Formula I may be used in the treatment of asthma in combination with antiasthmatic agents such as steroids, bronchodilators and leukotriene antagonists.

In particular, for the treatment of the inflammatory diseases rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, inflammatory bowel disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma and allergic rhinitis a compound of the present invention may be combined with agents such as TNF-α inhibitors such as anti-TNF monoclonal antibodies (such as Remicade, CDP-870 and D.sub2.E.sub7.) and TNF receptor immunoglobulin molecules (such as Enbrel.reg.), non-selective COX-1 / COX-2 inhibitors (such as piroxicam, diclofenac, propionic acids such as naproxen, flubiprofen, fenoprofen, ketoprofen and ibuprofen, fenamates such as mefenamic acid, indomethacin, sulindac, apazone, pyrazolones such as phenylbutazone, salicylates such as aspirin), COX-2 inhibitors (such as meloxicam, celecoxib, rofecoxib, valdecoxib and etoricoxib) low dose methotrexate, lefunomide; ciclesonide; hydroxychloroquine, d-penicillamine, auranofin or parenteral or oral gold.

The present invention still further relates to the combination of a compound of the Formula I together with a leukotriene biosynthesis inhibitor, 5-lipoxygenase (5-LO) inhibitor or 5-lipoxygenase activating protein (FLAP) antagonist such as zileuton; ABT-761; fenleuton; tepoxalin; Abbott-79175; Abbott-85761; N-(5-substituted)-thiophene-2-alkylsulfonamides; 2,6-di-tert-butylphenol hydrazones; methoxytetrahydropyrans such as Zeneca ZD-2138; the compound SB-210661; pyridinyl-substituted 2-cyanonaphthalene compounds such as L-739,010; 2-cyanoquinoline compounds such as L-746,530; indole and quinoline compounds such as MK-591, MK-886, and BAY x 1005.

The present invention still further relates to the combination of a compound of the Formula I together with a receptor antagonist for leukotrienes LTB.sub4., LTC.sub4., LTD.sub4., and LTE.sub4. selected from the group consisting of the phenothiazin-3-ones such

as L-651,392; amidino compounds such as CGS-25019c; benzoxalamines such as ontazolast; benzenecarboximidamides such as BIIL 284/260; and compounds such as zafirlukast, ablukast, montelukast, pranlukast, verlukast (MK-679), RG-12525, Ro-245913, iralukast (CGP 45715A), and BAY x 7195.

The present invention still further relates to the combination of a compound of the Formula I together with a PDE4 inhibitor including inhibitors of the isoform PDE4D.

The present invention still further relates to the combination of a compound of the Formula I together with a antihistaminic H.sub1. receptor antagonists such as cetirizine, loratadine, desloratadine, fexofenadine, astemizole, azelastine, and chlorpheniramine.

The present invention still further relates to the combination of a compound of the Formula I together with a gastroprotective H.sub2. receptor antagonist.

The present invention still further relates to the combination of a compound of the Formula I together with an α.sub1.- and α.sub2.-adrenoceptor agonist vasoconstrictor sympathomimetic agent, such as propylhexedrine, phenylephrine, phenylpropanolamine, pseudoephedrine, naphazoline hydrochloride, oxymetazoline hydrochloride, tetrahydrozoline hydrochloride, xylometazoline hydrochloride, and ethylnorepinephrine hydrochloride.

The present invention still further relates to the combination of a compound of the Formula I together with anticholinergic agents such as ipratropium bromide; tiotropium bromide; oxitropium bromide; pirenzepine; and telenzepine.

The present invention still further relates to the combination of a compound of the Formula I together with a β.sub1.- to β.sub4.-adrenoceptor agonists such as metaproterenol, isoproterenol, isoprenaline, albuterol, salbutamol, formoterol, salmeterol, terbutaline, orciprenaline, bitolterol mesylate, and pirbuterol; or methylxanthanines including theophylline and aminophylline; sodium cromoglycate; or muscarinic receptor (M1, M2, and M3) antagonist.

The present invention still further relates to the combination of a compound of the Formula I together with an insulin-like growth factor type I (IGF-1) mimetic.

The present invention still further relates to the combination of a compound of the Formula I together with an inhaled glucocorticoid with reduced systemic side effects, such as prednisone, prednisolone, flunisolide, triamcinolone acetonide, beclomethasone dipropionate, budesonide, fluticasone propionate, and mometasone furoate.

The present invention still further relates to the combination of a compound of the Formula I together with an inhibitor of matrix metalloproteases (MMPs), i.e., the stromelysins, the collagenases, and the gelatinases, as well as aggrecanase; especially collagenase-1 (MMP-1), collagenase-2 (MMP-8), collagenase-3 (MMP-13), stromelysin-1 (MMP-3), stromelysin-2 (MMP-10), and stromelysin-3 (MMP-11) and MMP-12.

The present invention still further relates to the combination of a compound of the Formula I together with other modulators of chemokine receptor function such as CCR1, CCR2, CCR2A, CCR2B, CCR3, CCR4, CCR5, CCR6, CCR7, CCR8, CCR9, CCR10 and CCR11 (for the C-C family); CXCR1, CXCR3, CXCR4 and CXCR5 (for the C-X-C family) and CX_3CR1 for the C-X_3-C family.

The present invention still further relates to the combination of a compound of the Formula I together with antiviral agents such as Viracept, AZT, aciclovir and famciclovir, and antisepsis compounds such as Valant.

The present invention still further relates to the combination of a compound of the Formula I together with cardiovascular agents such as calcium channel blockers, lipid lowering agents such as statins, fibrates, beta-blockers, Ace inhibitors, Angiotensin-2 receptor antagonists and platelet aggregation inhibitors.

The present invention still further relates to the combination of a compound of the Formula I together with CNS agents such as antidepressants (such as sertraline), anti-Parkinsonian drugs (such as deprenyl, L-dopa, Requip, Mirapex, MAOB inhibitors such as selegine and rasagiline, comP inhibitors such as Tasmar, A-2 inhibitors, dopamine reuptake inhibitors, NMDA antagonists, Nicotine agonists, Dopamine agonists and inhibitors of neuronal nitric oxide synthase), and anti-Alzheimer's drugs such as donepezil, tacrine, COX-2 inhibitors, propentofylline or metryfonate.

The present invention still further relates to the combination of a compound of the Formula I together with (i) tryptase inhibitors; (ii) platelet activating factor (PAF) antagonists; (iii) interleukin converting enzyme (ICE) inhibitors; (iv) IMPDH inhibitors; (v) adhesion molecule inhibitors including VLA-4 antagonists; (vi) cathepsins; (vii) MAP kinase inhibitors; (viii) glucose-6 phosphate dehydrogenase inhibitors; (ix) kinin-B.sub1. - and B.sub2. -receptor antagonists; (x) anti-gout agents, e.g., colchicine; (xi) xanthine oxidase inhibitors, e.g., allopurinol; (xii) uricosuric agents, e.g., probenecid, sulfinpyrazone, and benzbromarone; (xiii) growth hormone secretagogues; (xiv) transforming growth factor

(TGFβ); (xv) platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF); (xvi) fibroblast growth factor, e.g., basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF); (xvii) granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF); (xviii) capsaicin cream; (xix) Tachykinin NK.sub1. and NK.sub3. receptor antagonists selected from the group consisting of NKP-608C; SB-233412 (talnetant); and D-4418; (xx) elastase inhibitors selected from the group consisting of UT-77 and ZD-0892; (xxi) TNF? converting enzyme inhibitors (TACE); (xxii) induced nitric oxide synthase inhibitors (iNOS) or (xxiii) chemoattractant receptor-homologous molecule expressed on TH2 cells, (CRTH2 antagonists).

A compound of the Formula I may also be used in combination with osteoporosis agents such as roloxifene, droloxifene, lasofoxifene or fosomax and immunosuppressant agents such as FK-506, rapamycin, cyclosporine, azathioprine, and methotrexate.

A compound of the Formula I may also be used in combination with existing therapeutic agents for the treatment of osteoarthritis. Suitable agents to be used in combination include standard non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents (hereinafter NSAID's) such as piroxicam, diclofenac, propionic acids such as naproxen, flubiprofen, fenoprofen, ketoprofen and ibuprofen, fenamates such as mefenamic acid, indomethacin, sulindac, apazone, pyrazolones such as phenylbutazone, salicylates such as aspirin, COX-2 inhibitors such as celecoxib, valdecoxib, rofecoxib and etoricoxib, analgesics and intraarticular therapies such as corticosteroids and hyaluronic acids such as hyalgan and synvisc and P2X7 receptor antagonists.

A compound of the Formula I can also be used in combination with existing therapeutic agents for the treatment of cancer. Suitable agents to be used in combination include:

(i) antiproliferative/antineoplastic drugs and combinations thereof, as used in medical oncology, such as alkylating agents (for example cis-platin, carboplatin, cyclophosphamide, nitrogen mustard, melphalan, chlorambucil, busulphan and nitrosoureas); antimetabolites (for example antifolates such as fluoropyrimidines like 5-fluorouracil and tegafur, raltitrexed, methotrexate, cytosine arabinoside, hydroxyurea, gemcitabine and paclitaxel (Taxol®); antitumour antibiotics (for example anthracyclines like adriamycin, bleomycin, doxorubicin, daunomycin, epirubicin, idarubicin, mitomycin-C, dactinomycin and mithramycin); antimitotic agents (for example vinca alkaloids like vincristine, vinblastine, vindesine and

vinorelbine and taxoids like taxol and taxotere); and topoisomerase inhibitors (for example epipodophyllotoxins like etoposide and teniposide, amsacrine, topotecan and camptothecin);

(ii) cytostatic agents such as antioestrogens (for example tamoxifen, toremifene, raloxifene, droloxifene and iodoxyfene), oestrogen receptor down regulators (for example fulvestrant), antiandrogens (for example bicalutamide, flutamide, nilutamide and cyproterone acetate), LHRH antagonists or LHRH agonists (for example goserelin, leuprorelin and buserelin), progestogens (for example megestrol acetate), aromatase inhibitors (for example as anastrozole, letrozole, vorazole and exemestane) and inhibitors of 5α-reductase such as finasteride;

(iii) Agents which inhibit cancer cell invasion (for example metalloproteinase inhibitors like marimastat and inhibitors of urokinase plasminogen activator receptor function);

(iv) inhibitors of growth factor function, for example such inhibitors include growth factor antibodies, growth factor receptor antibodies (for example the anti-erbb2 antibody trastuzumab [Herceptin™] and the anti-erbb1 antibody cetuximab [C225]) , farnesyl transferase inhibitors, tyrosine kinase inhibitors and serine/threonine kinase inhibitors, for example inhibitors of the epidermal growth factor family (for example EGFR family tyrosine kinase inhibitors such as N-(3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-7-methoxy-6-(3-morpholinopropoxy)quinazolin-4-amine (gefitinib, AZD1839), N-(3-ethynylphenyl)-6,7-bis(2-methoxyethoxy)quinazolin-4-amine (erlotinib, OSI-774) and 6-acrylamido-N-(3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-7-(3-morpholinopropoxy)quinazolin-4-amine (CI 1033)), for example inhibitors of the platelet-derived growth factor family and for example inhibitors of the hepatocyte growth factor family;

(v) antiangiogenic agents such as those which inhibit the effects of vascular endothelial growth factor, (for example the anti-vascular endothelial cell growth factor antibody bevacizumab [Avastin™], compounds such as those disclosed in International Patent Applications WO 97/22596, WO 97/30035, WO 97/32856 and WO 98/13354) and compounds that work by other mechanisms (for example linomide, inhibitors of integrin αvβ3 function and angiostatin);

(vi) vascular damaging agents such as Combretastatin A4 and compounds disclosed in International Patent Applications WO 99/02166, WO00/40529, WO 00/41669, WO01/92224, WO02/04434 and WO02/08213;

(vii) antisense therapies, for example those which are directed to the targets listed above, such as ISIS 2503, an anti-ras antisense;

(viii) gene therapy approaches, including for example approaches to replace aberrant genes such as aberrant p53 or aberrant BRCA1 or BRCA2, GDEPT (gene-directed enzyme pro-drug therapy) approaches such as those using cytosine deaminase, thymidine kinase or a bacterial nitroreductase enzyme and approaches to increase patient tolerance to chemotherapy or radiotherapy such as multi-drug resistance gene therapy; and

(ix) immunotherapy approaches, including for example ex-vivo and in-vivo approaches to increase the immunogenicity of patient tumour cells, such as transfection with cytokines such as interleukin 2, interleukin 4 or granulocyte-macrophage colony stimulating factor, approaches to decrease T-cell anergy, approaches using transfected immune cells such as cytokine-transfected dendritic cells, approaches using cytokine-transfected tumour cell lines and approaches using anti-idiotypic antibodies.

If formulated as a fixed dose such combination products employ a compound of the Formula I within the dosage range described herein and the other pharmaceutically-active agent within its approved dosage range. Sequential use is contemplated when a combination formulation is inappropriate.

Although a compound of the Formula I is primarily of value as a therapeutic agent for use in warm-blooded animals (including man), it is also useful whenever it is required to inhibit the effects of cytokines. Thus, it is useful as pharmacological standard for use in the development of new biological tests and in the search for new pharmacological agents.

The invention will now be illustrated in the following non-limiting Example in which, unless otherwise stated:-

(i) operations were carried out at ambient temperature, *i.e.* in the range 17 to 25°C and under an atmosphere of an inert gas such as argon unless otherwise stated;

(ii) evaporations were carried out by rotary evaporation in vacuo and work-up procedures were carried out after removal of residual solids by filtration;

(iii) column chromatography (by the flash procedure) and medium pressure liquid chromatography (MPLC) were performed on Merck Kieselgel silica (Art. 9385) or Merck Lichroprep RP-18 (Art. 9303) reversed-phase silica obtained from E. Merck, Darmstadt, Germany or high pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC) was performed on C18 reverse phase silica, for example on a Dynamax C-18 60Å preparative reversed-phase column;

(iv) yields are given for illustration only and are not necessarily the maximum attainable;

(v) the structure of a compound of the Formula I of the invention was confirmed by nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and mass spectral techniques; fast-atom bombardment (FAB) mass spectral data were obtained using a Platform spectrometer and, where appropriate, either positive ion data or negative ion data were collected; NMR chemical shift values were measured on the delta scale [proton magnetic resonance spectra were determined using a Varian Gemini 2000 spectrometer operating at a field strength of 300MHz or a Bruker AM250 spectrometer operating at a field strength of 250MHz; the following abbreviations have been used: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet; br, broad;

(vi) melting points are uncorrected and were determined using a Mettler SP62 automatic melting point apparatus or an oil-bath apparatus; and

(vii) the following abbreviations have been used:-

DMA	N,N-dimethylacetamide
DMF	N,N-dimethylformamide
DCM	dichloromethane
DMSO	dimethylsulphoxide
THF	tetrahydrofuran

Example 1

3-{[4-(benzyloxy)benzoyl]amino}-*N*-cyclopropyl-4-methylbenzamide

To a solution of 4-benzyloxybenzoic acid (11.0 g, 48 mmol) in DCM (100 ml) at 0°C was added oxalyl chloride (8.4 ml, 96 mmol) followed by DMF (two drops). The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. The mixture was evaporated giving a white solid which was dissolved in DCM (50 ml). The resulting solution was added portionwise to a stirred solution of 3-amino-*N*-cyclopropyl-4-methylbenzamide (7.61 g, 40 mmol) and pyridine (7.76 ml, 96 mmol) in DCM (100 ml) at 0°C. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. The solid was collected by filtration and washed three times with DCM to give the title compound as a white solid (13.9 g, 87%); NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.60 (m, 4H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 2.84 (m, 1H), 5.20 (s, 2H), 7.14 (d, 2H), 7.39 (m, 6H), 7.63 (d, 1H), 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.97 (d, 2H), 8.37 (s, 1H), 9.82 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 399.

The 3-amino-*N*-cyclopropyl-4-methylbenzamide used as starting material was prepared as follows :-

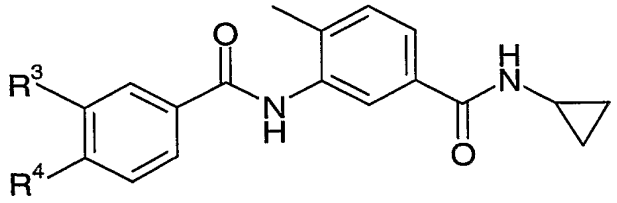
A) To a stirred solution of 4-methyl-3 nitrobenzoyl chloride (20 g) in methylene chloride (200 ml) at 0°C was added a mixture of cyclopropylamine (7.62 ml) and triethylamine (28 ml). The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for a further 16 hours. The reaction mixture was evaporated *in vacuo* and a saturated aqueous solution of sodium bicarbonate was added. The precipitated solid was filtered off and washed with *iso*-hexane and dried (magnesium sulphate) to give *N*-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-nitrobenzamide as a colourless solid (22.9 g); NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.60 (m, 2H), 0.72 (m, 2H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 2.87 (m, 1H), 7.60 (d, 1H), 8.06 (m, 1H), 8.41 (d, 1H), 8.67 (d, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 221.

B) A suspension of *N*-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-nitrobenzamide (22.92 g) and 10% palladium on carbon (2 g) in absolute alcohol (500 ml) was agitated under a hydrogen atmosphere for 16 hours. The reaction mixture was filtered through diatomaceous earth (Celite®) and the filtrate evaporated to dryness to give the title compound as a colourless solid (17.1 g); NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.53 (m, 2H), 0.65 (m, 2H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 2.80 (m, 1H), 6.92 (m, 2H), 7.06 (d, 1H), 8.09 (d, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 191.

Example 2

Using an analogous procedure to that described in Example 1, the appropriate starting material was reacted with oxalyl chloride followed by 3-amino-*N*-cyclopropyl-4-methylbenzamide to give the compounds described in Table 1.

Table 1



R^3	R^4	Method	Note
Benzyloxy	H	Ex 1	a
Methoxy	Benzyloxy	Ex 1	b
Methyl	Benzyloxy	Ex 1	c
Fluoro	Benzyloxy	Ex 1	d

Notes

a) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.69 (m, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 5.22 (s, 2H), 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.42 (m, 7H), 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.83 (s, 1H), 8.41 (s, 1H), 9.99 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M\text{-}H^-$ 399.

b) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.69 (m, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 3.86 (m, 3H), 5.22 (s, 2H), 7.17 (m, 1H), 7.41 (m, 6H), 7.63 (m, 3H), 7.79 (m, 1H), 8.37 (m, 1H), 9.86 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M\text{-}H^-$ 429.

The 4-(benzyloxy)-3-methoxybenzoic acid used as starting material was prepared as follows:-

To a stirred solution of 4-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzoic acid (5 g, 30 mmol) in THF (15 ml) was added a solution of sodium hydroxide (3 g) in water (37.5 ml). The resulting mixture was cooled to 0°C and a solution of benzyl chloride (4.1 ml, 34.8 mmol) in THF (15 ml) was added. The resulting mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature then heated to 70°C for 18 hours then to 90°C for 4 hours. The mixture was cooled and evaporated. The residual aqueous mixture was washed with isohexane then acidified with 2M hydrochloric acid

solution. The resulting precipitate was collected by filtration, washed with isohexane and dried giving the title compound (5.76 g, 74%); NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 3.83 (s, 3H), 5.19 (s, 2H), 7.14 (m, 1H), 7.40 (m, 6H), 7.55 (dd, 1H), 12.69 (m, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M-H^-$ 257.

c) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.68 (m, 2H), 2.26 (m, 6H), 2.85 (m, 1H), 5.27 (s, 2H), 7.15 (m, 1H), 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.63 (m, 1H), 7.78 (m, 1H), 7.85 (m, 2H), 8.40 (m, 1H), 9.84 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 415.

d) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.68 (m, 2H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 2.85 (m, 1H), 5.32 (s, 2H), 7.42 (m, 7H), 7.65 (dd, 1H), 7.83 (m, 3H), 8.41 (d, 1H), 9.97 (s, 1H)); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 419.

The 4-(benzyloxy)-3-fluorobenzoic acid used as starting material was prepared from 4-hydroxy-3-fluorobenzoic acid using an analogous procedure to that used to prepare 4-(benzyloxy)-3-methoxybenzoic acid; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 5.24 (s, 2H), 7.21 (m, 1H), 7.45 (m, 5H), 7.71 (m, 2H); Mass Spectrum: $M-H^-$ 245.

Example 3

4-(benzyloxy)-3-chloro-*N*-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}benzamide

To a solution of 4-(benzyloxy)-3-chlorobenzoic acid (1.5 g, 5.73 mmol) in DMF (11.5 ml) was added 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (2.2 g, 11.5 mmol), hydroxybenztriazole (1.55 g, 11.5 mmol) and *N*-methyl-morpholine (2.28 ml) followed by 3-amino-*N*-cyclopropyl-4-methylbenzamide (1.09 g, 5.73 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 48 hours. The mixture was evaporated. A saturated aqueous solution of potassium carbonate was added, the resulting precipitate was collected by filtration, washed with dilute hydrochloric acid then saturated aqueous potassium carbonate solution, then triturated with diethyl ether giving the title compound as a solid (2.0 g, 81%); NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.69 (m, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.85 (m, 1H), 5.35 (s, 2H), 7.39 (m, 5H), 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.65 (m, 1H), 7.78 (m, 1H), 7.97 (m, 1H), 8.10 (m, 1H), 8.40 (m, 1H), 10.01 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 435.

The 4-(benzyloxy)-3-chlorobenzoic acid used as starting material was prepared from 4-hydroxy-3-chlorobenzoic acid using an analogous procedure to that used to prepare 4-(benzyloxy)-3-methoxybenzoic acid (paragraph (b) in the Notes section of Example 2). NMR

Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 5.21 (s, 2H), 7.14 (d, 1H), 7.34 (m, 1H), 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.80 (dd, 1H), 7.92 (d, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M\text{-}H^-$ 261.

Example 4

***N*-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{[4-(pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino}benzamide**

To a stirred solution of *N*-cyclopropyl-3-[(4-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]-4-methylbenzamide (500 mg, 1.61 mmol) in DMF (2.5 ml) was added potassium carbonate (446 mg, 3.22 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 minutes. 2-Chloromethyl-pyridine hydrochloride (291 mg, 1.78 mmol) was added and the resulting mixture stirred and heated to 50°C for 18 h. The mixture was cooled to room temperature and saturated aqueous potassium carbonate solution (15 ml) and ethyl acetate (5 ml) were added. The resulting mixture was stirred for 20 minutes. The solid was collected by filtration, washed with saturated aqueous potassium carbonate solution, ethyl acetate and isohexane and dried giving the title compound as a solid (425 mg, 60%); NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.56 (m, 2H), 0.68 (m, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 5.33 (s, 2H), 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.86 (m, 1H), 7.98 (m, 2H), 8.36 (s, 1H), 8.60 (m, 1H), 10.00 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 401.

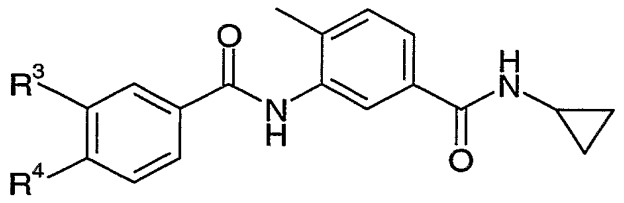
The *N*-cyclopropyl-3-[(4-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]-4-methylbenzamide used as starting material was prepared as follows:-

To a stirred solution of 3-{[4-(benzyloxy)benzoyl]amino}-*N*-cyclopropyl-4-methylbenzamide (11.5 g, 28.8 mmol) in methanol (250 ml) was added 10% palladium on carbon (1.1 g) under argon. The argon atmosphere was replaced with hydrogen (balloon) and the resulting mixture stirred at room temperature for 18 h. The mixture was filtered through diatomaceous earth (Celite®) and the filtrate evaporated to dryness to give the title compound as a colourless solid (8.26 g, 92%); NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.68 (m, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 6.87 (m, 2H), 7.32 (m, 1H), 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.88 (m, 2H), 8.36 (m, 1H), 9.74 (s, 1H), 10.31 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M\text{-}H^-$ 309.

Example 5

Using an analogous procedure to that described in Example 4, the appropriate starting materials were reacted to give the compounds described in Table 2.

Table 2



R^3	R^4	Method	Note
H	1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethoxy	Ex 4	a
H	pyridin-3-ylmethoxy	Ex 4	b
H	(5-methylisoxazol-3-yl)methoxy	Ex 4	c
H	(5-chloro-1,2,3-thiadiazol-4-yl)methoxy	Ex 4	d
H	imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-2-ylmethoxy	Ex 4	e
H	(2-methyl-1,3-thiazol-4-yl)methoxy	Ex 4	f
H	(3,5-dimethylisoxazol-4-yl)methoxy	Ex 4	g
H	1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-ylmethoxy	Ex 4	h
H	(2-carbomethoxy-furan-5-yl)methoxy	Ex 4	i
H	(2-chloro-1,3-thiazol-5-yl)methoxy	Ex 4	j
1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethoxy	H	Ex 4	k
(2-methyl-1,3-thiazol-4-yl)methoxy	H	Ex 4	l

pyridin-2-ylmethoxy	H	Ex 4	m
(3,5-dimethylisoxazol-4-yl)methoxy	H	Ex 4	n
1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-ylmethoxy	H	Ex 4	o
(2-chloro-1,3-thiazol-5-yl)methoxy	H	Ex 4	p
Methoxy	pyridin-2-ylmethoxy	Ex 4	q
Methoxy	1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethoxy	Ex 4	r
Methyl	pyridin-2-ylmethoxy	Ex 4	s
Methyl	1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethoxy	Ex 4	t
Methyl	2-methyl-1,3-thiazol-4-yl	Ex 4	u
Methyl	(3,5-dimethylisoxazol-4-yl)methoxy	Ex 4	v
Methyl	1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-ylmethoxy	Ex 4	w
Methyl	(2-carbomethoxy-furan-5-yl)methoxy	Ex 4	x
Fluoro	pyridin-2-ylmethoxy	Ex 4	y
Fluoro	(2-methyl-1,3-thiazol-4-yl)methoxy	Ex 4	z
Fluoro	(3,5-dimethylisoxazol-4-yl)methoxy	Ex 4	aa
Fluoro	1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-ylmethoxy	Ex 4	ab
Fluoro	1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethoxy	Ex 4	ac
Fluoro	imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-2-ylmethoxy	Ex 4	ad
Chloro	pyridin-2-ylmethoxy	Ex 4	ae
Chloro	1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethoxy	Ex 4	af

Notes

a) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.58 (m, 2H), 0.68 (m, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.85 (m, 1H), 5.37 (s, 2H), 7.18 (m, 2H), 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.83 (m, 2H), 7.99 (m, 2H), 8.39 (m, 1H), 9.17 (s, 1H), 9.90 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M\text{-}H^-$ 406.

b) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.58 (m, 2H), 0.69 (m, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 5.31 (s, 2H), 7.17 (m, 2H), 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.45 (m, 1H), 7.63 (m, 1H), 7.83 (s, 1H), 7.91 (m, 1H), 8.00 (m, 2H), 8.36 (m, 1H), 8.57 (m, 1H), 8.71 (m, 1H), 9.85 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 402.

c) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.68 (m, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.85 (m, 1H), 5.28 (s, 2H), 6.37 (s, 1H), 7.15 (m, 2H), 7.31 (m, 1H), 7.60 (m, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.99 (m, 2H), 8.41 (s, 1H), 10.40 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M\text{-}H^-$ 404.

d) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.58 (m, 2H), 0.68 (m, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 5.62 (s, 2H), 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.34 (m, 1H), 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.83 (s, 1H), 8.01 (m, 2H), 8.37 (m, 1H), 9.95 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M\text{-}H^-$ 441.

e) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.56 (m, 2H), 0.66 (m, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.84 (m, 1H), 5.32 (s, 2H), 6.89 (m, 1H), 7.24 (m, 4H), 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.98 (m, 3H), 8.38 (m, 1H), 8.53 (m, 1H), 9.94 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 441.

f) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.56 (m, 2H), 0.67 (m, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.68 (s, 3H), 2.84 (m, 1H), 5.21 (s, 2H), 7.15 (m, 2H), 7.32 (m, 1H), 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.97 (d, 2H), 8.37 (m, 1H), 9.88 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 422.

g) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.58 (m, 2H), 0.69 (m, 2H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 2.26 (m, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.85 (m, 1H), 5.04 (s, 2H), 7.15 (d, 2H), 7.34 (d, 1H), 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 8.00 (d, 2H), 8.37 (m, 1H), 9.85 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 420.

h) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.69 (m, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 5.58 (s, 2H), 7.20 (d, 2H), 7.34 (d, 1H), 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 8.00 (d, 2H), 8.37 (d, 1H), 9.01 (s, 1H), 9.87 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M\text{-}H^-$ 407.

i) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.58 (m, 2H), 0.69 (m, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 5.30 (s, 2H), 6.84 (d, 1H), 7.18 (d, 2H), 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.99 (d, 2H), 8.37 (m, 1H), 9.88 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M\text{-}H^-$ 447.

j) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.69 (m, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 5.47 (s, 2H), 7.17 (d, 2H), 7.34 (d, 1H), 7.64 (d, 1H), 7.80 (m, 1H), 7.85 (m, 1H), 7.99 (m, 2H), 8.37 (m, 1H), 9.87 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M\text{-}H^-$ 440.

k) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.58 (m, 2H), 0.69 (m, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 5.34 (s, 2H), 7.29 (m, 1H), 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.47 (m, 1H), 7.60 (m, 1H), 7.66 (m, 2H), 7.82 (m, 2H), 8.38 (m, 1H), 9.15 (m, 1H), 9.99 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 408.

The *N*-cyclopropyl-3-[(3-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]-4-methylbenzamide used as starting material was prepared from 3-{[3-(benzyloxy)benzoyl]amino}-*N*-cyclopropyl-4-methylbenzamide using an analogous procedure to that used to prepare *N*-cyclopropyl-3-[(4-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]-4-methylbenzamide (Method section of Example 4). The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.69 (m, 2H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 6.99 (dd, 1H), 7.37 (dd, 4H), 7.64 (dd, 1H), 7.80 (d, 1H), 8.37 (d, 1H), 9.80 (d, 2H); Mass Spectrum: $M\text{-}H^-$ 309.

l) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.58 (m, 2H), 0.69 (m, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.67 (m, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 5.22 (s, 2H), 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.58 (m, 2H), 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.81 (m, 1H), 8.38 (m, 1H), 9.99 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 422.

m) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.69 (m, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 5.30 (s, 2H), 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.47 (m, 1H), 7.61 (m, 4H), 7.81 (m, 1H), 7.86 (m, 1H), 8.38 (m, 1H), 8.60 (m, 1H), 9.98 (m, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 402.

n) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.69 (m, 2H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 5.02 (s, 2H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.35 (d, 1H), 7.47 (t, 1H), 7.63 (m, 2H), 7.80 (d, 1H), 8.38 (d, 1H), 9.97 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 442.

o) The product gave the following data; Mass Spectrum: $M\text{-}H^-$ 407.

p) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.69 (m, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 5.46 (s, 2H), 7.27 (dd, 1H), 7.35 (d, 1H), 7.48 (m, 1H), 7.64 (m, 3H), 7.82 (m, 2H), 8.38 (d, 1H), 9.98 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 409.

q) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.68 (m, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 5.29 (s, 2H), 7.17 (d, 1H), 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.59 (m, 4H), 7.79 (m, 1H), 7.87 (m, 1H), 8.42 (m, 1H), 8.60 (m, 1H), 9.98 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 432.

The *N*-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-4-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzamide used as starting material was prepared from 4-(benzyloxy)-*N*-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-methoxybenzamide using an analogous procedure to that used to prepare *N*-cyclopropyl-3-[(4-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]-4-methylbenzamide (Methods section of Example 4). The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.69 (m, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 6.88 (d, 1H), 7.33 (d, 1H), 7.52 (dd, 1H), 7.57 (d, 1H), 7.64 (dd, 1H), 7.79 (d, 1H), 8.36 (d, 1H), 9.63 (s, 1H), 9.74 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 341.

r) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.68 (m, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 5.32 (s, 2H), 7.25 (d, 1H), 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.62 (m, 3H), 7.81 (m, 2H), 8.42 (m, 1H), 9.16 (m, 1H), 10.04 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 438.

s) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.69 (m, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 5.33 (s, 2H), 7.14 (m, 1H), 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.64 (m, 2H), 7.83 (m, 4H), 8.36 (m, 1H), 8.61 (m, 1H), 9.81 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 416.

The *N*-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-4-hydroxy-3-methylbenzamide used as starting material was prepared from 4-(benzyloxy)-*N*-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-methylbenzamide using an analogous procedure to that used to prepare *N*-cyclopropyl-3-[(4-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]-4-methylbenzamide (Methods section of Example 4). The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.56 (m, 2H), 0.68 (m, 2H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.85 (d, 1H), 6.87 (m, 1H), 7.32 (m, 1H), 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.70 (m, 1H), 7.79 (s, 2H), 8.40 (m, 1H), 9.72 (s, 1H), 10.02 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 325.

t) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.69 (m, 2H), 2.26 (m, 6H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 5.38 (s, 2H), 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.63 (m, 1H), 7.83 (m, 4H), 8.37 (m, 1H), 9.15 (m, 1H), 9.84 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 422.

u) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.68 (m, 2H), 2.24 (m, 6H), 2.68 (m, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 5.25 (s, 2H), 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.79 (m, 1H), 7.85 (m, 2H), 8.40 (m, 1H), 9.85 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 436.

v) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.70 (m, 2H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 6H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.85 (m, 1H), 5.06 (s, 2H), 7.19 (m, 1H), 7.34 (m, 1H), 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.85 (m, 3H), 8.43 (m, 1H), 9.84 (m, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 434.

w) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.68 (m, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.85 (m, 1H), 5.60 (s, 2H), 7.20 (m, 1H), 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.63 (m, 1H), 7.79 (m, 1H), 7.86 (m, 2H), 8.41 (m, 1H), 9.03 (s, 1H), 9.87 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 423

x) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.69 (m, 2H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 2.25 (m, 3H), 2.85 (m, 1H), 3.81 (m, 3H), 5.31 (s, 2H), 6.84 (m, 1H), 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.78 (m, 1H), 7.86 (m, 2H), 8.40 (m, 1H), 9.87 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 463.

y) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.68 (m, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 5.41 (s, 2H), 7.38 (m, 3H), 7.56 (m, 1H), 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.84 (m, 4H), 8.40 (m, 1H), 8.61 (m, 1H), 10.04 (m, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 420.

The *N*-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-fluoro-4-hydroxybenzamide used as starting material was prepared from 4-(benzyloxy)-3-fluoro-*N*-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}benzamide using an analogous procedure to that used to prepare *N*-cyclopropyl-3-[(4-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]-4-methylbenzamide (Methods section of Example 4). The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.68 (m, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.85 (m, 1H), 7.08 (m, 1H), 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.72 (m, 1H), 7.80 (m, 2H), 8.37 (m, 1H), 9.84 (s, 1H), 10.60 (m, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M-H^-$ 327.

z) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.68 (m, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.67 (m, 4H), 2.85 (m, 1H), 5.31 (s, 2H), 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.48 (m, 1H), 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.86 (m, 2H), 9.99 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 440.

aa) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.69 (m, 2H), 2.28 (s, 6H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 5.15 (s, 2H), 7.34 (d, 1H), 7.44 (t, 1H), 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.80 (m, 1H), 7.87 (m, 2H), 8.37 (m, 1H), 9.95 (m, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 438.

ab) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.69 (m, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.85 (m, 1H), 5.68 (s, 2H), 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.47 (m, 1H), 7.65 (m, 1H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.87 (m, 2H), 8.37 (m, 1H), 9.01 (s, 1H), 9.97 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M-H^-$ 425.

ac) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.69 (m, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 5.44 (s, 2H), 7.34 (m, 1H), 7.50 (m, 1H), 7.65 (m, 1H), 7.79 (m, 1H), 7.86 (m, 3H), 8.37 (m, 1H), 9.16 (m, 1H), 9.94 (m, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M-H^-$ 424.

ad) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.69 (m, 2H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 5.40 (s, 2H), 6.91 (td, 1H), 7.27 (ddd, 1H), 7.34 (m, 1H), 7.55 (t, 2H), 7.65 (dd, 1H), 7.79 (d, 1H), 7.85 (m, 2H), 8.08 (s, 1H), 8.37 (d, 1H), 8.55 (m, 1H), 9.91 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 459

ae) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.68 (m, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 5.42 (s, 2H), 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.79 (m, 1H), 7.89 (m, 1H), 7.97 (m, 1H), 8.12 (m, 1H), 8.36 (m, 1H), 8.61 (m, 1H), 9.98 (m, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M+H^+$ 436.

The 3-chloro-*N*-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-4-hydroxybenzamide used as starting material was prepared from 4-(benzyloxy)-3-chloro-*N*-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}benzamide using an analogous procedure to that used to prepare *N*-cyclopropyl-3-[(4-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]-4-methylbenzamide (Methods section of Example 4) except that ethyl acetate was used as the solvent in place of methanol. The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.69 (m, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 7.08 (m, 1H), 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.80 (m, 2H), 8.03 (m, 1H), 8.36 (m, 1H), 9.87 (s, 1H), 10.79 (m, 1H); Mass Spectrum: $M-H^-$ 343.

af) The product gave the following data; NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 0.57 (m, 2H), 0.68 (m, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.86 (m, 1H), 5.46 (s, 2H), 7.33 (d, 1H), 7.48 (d, 1H), 7.62 (dd, 1H), 7.79 (d, 1H), 7.86 (d, 1H), 7.98 (dd, 1H), 8.10 (d, 1H), 8.36 (d, 1H), 9.16 (d, 1H), 9.98 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: M-H$^-$ 424.

Example 6

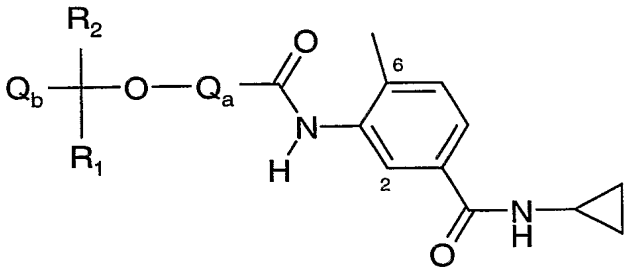
***N*-cyclopropyl-3-({4-[(4-methoxypyridin-2-yl)methoxy]benzoyl}amino)-4-methylbenzamide**

To a stirred solution of *N*-cyclopropyl-3-[(4-hydroxybenzoyl)amino]-4-methylbenzamide (200 mg, 0.64 mmol) and 4-methoxy-2-hydroxymethylpyridine (500 mg, 3.6 mmol) in dry THF (25 ml) under an argon atmosphere was added successively tributylphosphine (500 mg, 2.5 mmol) and di-isopropyl azodicarboxylate (500 mg, 2.5 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 20°C for 16 hours, then the solvent was evaporated at reduced pressure and the residue purified by silica column chromatography, eluting with a gradient of 0 to 10% methanol in ethyl acetate to give the title compound as a white solid (100 mg); NMR Spectrum: ($DMSOd_6$) 1.55 (m, 2H), 1.65 (m, 2H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 2.85 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 5.20 (s, 2H), 6.95 (dd, 1H), 7.05 (d, 1H), 7.15 (d, 2H), 7.30 (d, 1H), 7.60 (dd, 1H), 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, 2H), 8.35 (d, 1H), 8.40 (broad s, 1H), 9.80 (s, 1H); Mass Spectrum: M+H$^+$ 432.

The 4-methoxy-2-hydroxymethylpyridine used as starting material was prepared according to *J. Med. Chem.* (1995) 38, 4910.

CLAIMS

1. A compound of the Formula I



I

wherein

Q_a is phenyl or heteroaryl, and Q_a may optionally bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, (1-6C)alkyl, (2-6C)alkenyl, (2-6C)alkynyl, (1-6C)alkoxy, (1-6C)alkylamino, di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino and (1-6C)alkoxycarbonyl;

R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from hydrogen, (1-6C)alkyl, (2-6C)alkenyl and (2-6C)alkynyl;

Q_b is phenyl, heteroaryl or heterocyclyl, and Q_b may optionally bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, (1-6C)alkyl, (2-6C)alkenyl, (2-6C)alkynyl, (3-6C)cycloalkyl, (3-6C)cycloalkyl-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkoxy, (3-6C)cycloalkoxy, (3-6C)cycloalkyl-(1-6C)alkoxy, carboxy, (1-6C)alkoxycarbonyl, N-(1-6C)alkylcarbamoyl, N,N-di-[(1-6C)alkyl]carbamoyl, (2-6C)alkanoyl, amino, (1-6C)alkylamino, di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino, halogeno-(1-6C)alkyl, hydroxy-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkoxy-(1-6C)alkyl, cyano-(1-6C)alkyl, amino-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkylamino-(1-6C)alkyl, di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino-(1-6C)alkyl, (1-6C)alkylthio, (1-6C)alkylsulphinyl, (1-6C)alkylsulphonyl, aminosulphonyl, N-(1-6C)alkylsulphamoyl, N,N-di-[(1-6C)alkyl]sulphamoyl and (3-6C)cycloalkylsulphonyl;

and wherein any of the substituents on Q_a or Q_b defined hereinbefore which comprise a CH_2 group which is attached to 2 carbon atoms or a CH_3 group which is attached to a carbon atom may optionally bear on each said CH_2 or CH_3 group one or more substituents selected from hydroxy, cyano, amino, (1-6C)alkyl , (1-6C)alkoxy, (1-6C)alkylamino and di-[(1-6C)alkyl]amino;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound of the Formula I according to claim 1 selected from:-

3-{[4-(benzyloxy)benzoyl]amino}-N-cyclopropyl-4-methylbenzamide;

3-{[3-(benzyloxy)benzoyl]amino}-N-cyclopropyl-4-methylbenzamide;

4-(benzyloxy)-N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-methylbenzamide;

4-(benzyloxy)-3-fluoro-N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}benzamide;

4-(benzyloxy)-3-chloro-N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{[4-(pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino}benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{[4-(1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino}benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{[4-(pyridin-3-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino}benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-({4-[(5-methylisoxazol-3-yl)methoxy]benzoyl}amino)benzamide;

3-({4-[(5-chloro-1,2,3-thiadiazol-4-yl)methoxy]benzoyl}amino)-N-cyclopropyl-4-methylbenzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-3-{[4-(imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino}-4-methylbenzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-({4-[(2-methyl-1,3-thiazol-4-yl)methoxy]benzoyl}amino)benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-3-({4-[(3,5-dimethylisoxazol-4-yl)methoxy]benzoyl}amino)-4-methylbenzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{[4-(1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino}benzamide;

methyl 5-({4-[({5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}amino)carbonyl]phenoxy}methyl)-2-furoate;

3-({4-[(2-chloro-1,3-thiazol-5-yl)methoxy]benzoyl}amino)-N-cyclopropyl-4-methylbenzamide;

4-(benzyloxy)-N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-methoxybenzamide;

N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-methoxy-4-(pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)benzamide;

N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-methoxy-4-(1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethoxy)benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{[3-methyl-4-(pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino}benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{[3-methyl-4-(1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino}benzamide;

N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-fluoro-4-(pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)benzamide;

N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-fluoro-4-[(2-methyl-1,3-thiazol-4-yl)methoxy]benzamide;

N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-4-[(3,5-dimethylisoxazol-4-yl)methoxy]-3-fluorobenzamide;

N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-fluoro-4-(1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-ylmethoxy)benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{[3-(1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino}benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-({3-[(2-methyl-1,3-thiazol-4-yl)methoxy]benzoyl}amino)benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{[3-(pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino}benzamide;

N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-fluoro-4-(1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethoxy)benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-({3-methyl-4-[(2-methyl-1,3-thiazol-4-yl)methoxy]benzoyl}amino)benzamide;

N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-4-[(3,5-dimethylisoxazol-4-yl)methoxy]-3-methylbenzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{[3-methyl-4-(1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino}benzamide;

methyl 5-({4-[({5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}amino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenoxy}methyl)-2-furoate;

3-chloro-N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-4-(pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)benzamide;

3-chloro-N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-4-(1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethoxy)benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-3-({3-[(3,5-dimethylisoxazol-4-yl)methoxy]benzoyl}amino)-4-methylbenzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{[3-(1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-ylmethoxy)benzoyl]amino}benzamide;

3-({3-[(2-chloro-1,3-thiazol-5-yl)methoxy]benzoyl}amino)-N-cyclopropyl-4-methylbenzamide;

N-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-fluoro-4-(imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-2-ylmethoxy)benzamide; and

N-cyclopropyl-3-({4-[(4-methoxypyridin-2-yl)methoxy]benzoyl}amino)-4-methylbenzamide; or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.